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— The Truth Shall Make You Free —

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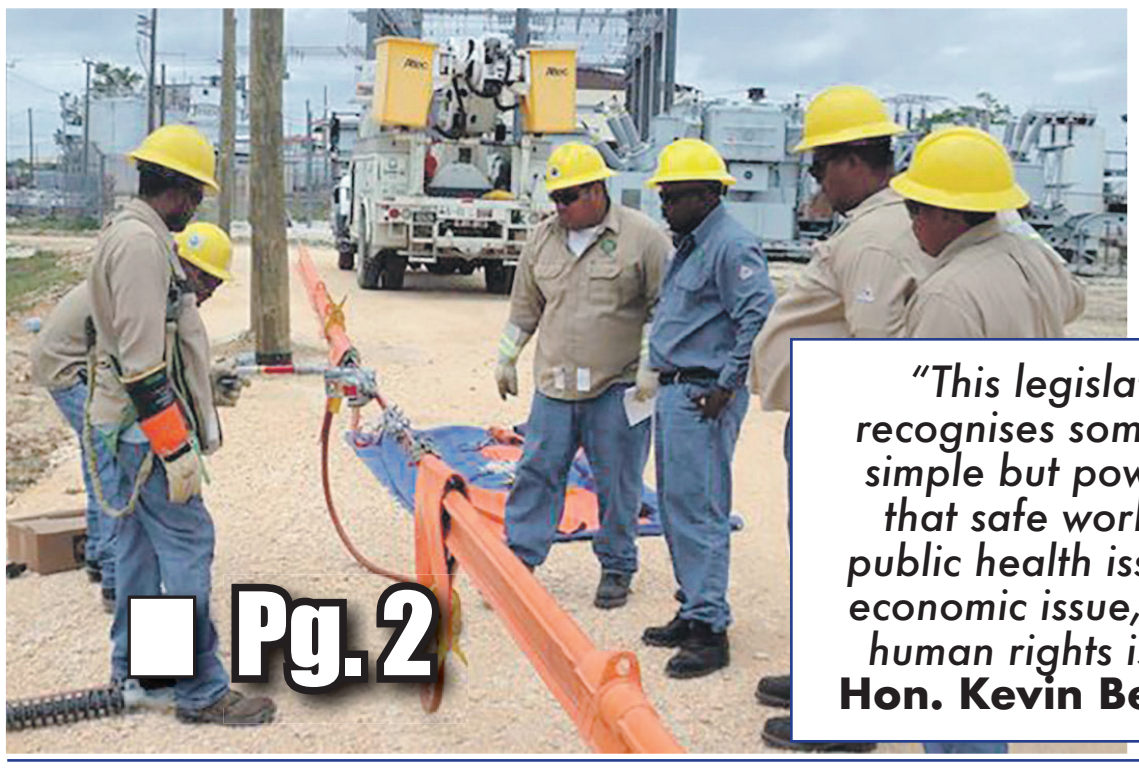
PUP FOR WORKERS

OSH PASSED AS UDP BOYCOTTS

The OSH joins other Social Justice initiatives like the NHI, Higher Minimum Wage, Land & House Access, Free Education, Boledo, & more.



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"This legislation recognises something simple but powerful, that safe work is a public health issue, an economic issue, and a human rights issue."
Hon. Kevin Bernard

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PUP PUSHES OSH:
UDP BOYCOTTS

"This legislation recognises something simple but powerful, that safe work is a public health issue, an economic issue, and a human rights issue." **Hon. Kevin Bernard**

On Friday, February 6, 2026, the Government of Belize brought the historic Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Bill 2025 to Parliament for second and third readings, with majority support. The Bill will be sent to the Upper House for approval. However, the Opposition, the United Democratic Party, in a despicable act boycotted the parliamentary session that considered several other important matters. This was a direct disregard and utter disrespect for their constitutional obligation to the country and people.

Prefacing the genesis, the OSH Bill was initially brought forward by the Said Musa Government between 1998 and 2008 but failed to pass; it was considered "too ambitious" or as PM Briceño told the media "not really practical." In 2011, the OSH was presented to the UDP Cabinet, and in January, 2014, the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Bill was first introduced and tabled in the House of Representatives by the Dean Barrow administration. Interestingly, upon introducing the Bill to the House of Representatives on Wednesday 8th January, Dean Barrow said that "although the objectives of the Bill are indeed laudable, it is fair to point out that this bill, if made law, is going to come at a huge financial cost." Barrow added "Let nobody be under the illusion about the substantial burden and cost that will come to the government, as regulator and employer…" To Barrow and the UDPs, it was about the cost to the Barrow government and not regarding the safety and health of the workforce.

Subsequently, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) expressed concerns regarding the proposed legislation in correspondence to the Chairman of the Public Service, Labour, Industry, and Trade Committee, highlighting areas that required clarification or amendment. The BCCI attempted to collaborate with the National Trade Union Congress of Belize (NTUCB) to produce a final draft by 2019, to no avail. The OSH was shelved until 2025 when a revised version was reintroduced by the People's United Party Government, the John Briceño administration, to the House of Representatives.

In May 2025, Hon Florencio Marin Jr., Minister of Labour and Local Government, at the time, emphasised that the bill had been a long time coming and he highlighted the critical role in ensuring the safety and well-being of Belize's workforce. Marin suggested that it was significant, a signature for everyone. He said, "When I was speaking with the unions on Labour Day, they were using the phrase "rush the OSH". I think soon that phrase will be out of style." A prophetic statement today with the majority's support at the House sitting.

Apparently, the Opposition led by Tracy Taeger-Panton et al, refused to be a part of this historic moment and to be on the right side of the struggle for workers' rights. The UDP irresponsibly boycotted the parliamentary session.

PM Briceño lambasted the Opposition boycott saying *"It's unfortunate that the opposition chose not to attend this meeting because our workers from across the country have been clamouring for it."*

Hon Kevin Bernard, Minister of Health and Wellness also weighed in on the Opposition's boycott saying *"I must make this comment that I find deeply disappointing that on the second reading of such an important and long overdue piece of legislation, a bill that directly protects the lives, health, and safety of Belizean workers, the opposition chose boycott over responsibility. One has to ask, does the leader of the opposition and the UDP truly care about the Belizean worker?"* Importantly, Minister Bernard recognized that it is not solely about the legislation, but about protection, dignity, and the fundamental rights of every Belizean worker to return home safe and healthy at the end of the workday.

Hon. Thea Garcia-Ramirez in addressing the National Assembly in support of the OSH Bill 2025 registered her sentiments from a human development perspective stating, *"These protections matter. Workplace injuries or deaths do not only affect the worker-they affect entire families. Income loss, disrupted education for children and increased caregiving burdens disproportionately impact women, particularly women heads of households, and single-parent families. Preventing workplace harm is therefore a direct investment in family stability and child well-being."* Minister Garcia-Ramirez summed up, "Madam Speaker, at its core, this bill is about what people on this side of the chamber hold most dear, it is about people. It affirms a simple principle: no Belizean should have to risk their life; they shouldn't have to risk their health or their family's security to earn a dignified living." Unfortunately, inaction on the matter resulted in lives lost in the line of work, because Barrow and the UDPs, including shameless Tracy, trumped cost over lives.

One placard held by one of the protesters, which was emblazoned with "Want to speed up the acquisition but can't rush the OSH" was certainly premature. The OSH Bill 2025 was pushed through the House with majority support and underscored the commitment by the Briceño administration to the Belizean workers-man and woman to a safe and healthy working environment. This piece of legislation aims to replace the antiquated Factories Act, modernising workplace safety in Belize, establishing the Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate and the National Occupational, Safety and Health Advisory Committee to ensure safe workplace practices. The bill is also aligned with the International Labour Conventions No. 155 and 187 which supports Belize's Decent Work Country Programme.

By Hilly Bennett

WATER is LIFE

Bringing Water to Belizeans All over the Jewel

PM John Briceño: "Water is life. Today was a meaningful day for the community of San Estevan Village. The expansion of their water system is closer to being a reality. The installation and expansion of water systems in our rural areas is key in our rural development strategy and plan."

SAN JOSE, TOLEDO

Ministry of Rural Transformation, in partnership with UNICEF, officially inaugurated the rehabilitated San Jose Water System in the Toledo District. By transitioning to a modern, green energy framework, this initiative significantly reduces operational costs for the local waterboard while ensuring a consistent, reliable water supply for residents. To bolster community resilience, a heavy-duty backup generator was also handed over to guarantee uninterrupted service regardless of weather or power fluctuations. Hon. Oscar Requena and the Ministry team remain committed to using innovative technology to bridge the infrastructure gap and empower our rural communities.

SAN ESTEVAN

Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government, in its ongoing mission to improve rural infrastructure, officially handed over an essential supply of water system expansion materials and power infrastructure to San Estevan Village. This event marks a key step in the effort to enhance water access and reliability for residents in the Orange Walk District.

The inventory of materials includes high-grade piping to expand the distribution network to more households and a heavy-duty 30 kW V8 diesel generator designed to ensure system resilience during power fluctuations. This investment is intended to address the community's growth by equipping the local waterboard with the tools needed for reliability and better water service delivery. By providing these materials, the Ministry is helping to ensure that the village can maintain consistent service to all households.

The handover ceremony was attended by Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize; Hon. Oscar Requena, Minister of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government; Mr. Valentino Shal, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government, and members of the San Estevan Village Council and the water board.

By strengthening the technical capabilities of San Estevan, the Ministry is ensuring that the community has the same level of dependable water service found in any village across Belize. (Release)

NAVCO ELECTS A NEW PRESIDENT CONGRATULATIONS to ROSAURA CHAN

Continued on page 4

The Belize Times

serving Belize since 1957 as the longest continuous newspaper.

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EDITORIAL

OSH IS HERE FOR US

On February 6, 2026, the People's United Party further reinforced its Social Justice foundation with a Bill whose relevance today is inversely proportional to the historically low unemployment rate, which has remained under two per cent for one year. Construction materials like galvanised steel coils, metal cylinders, building cement, and treated pine lumber, to name a few, have experienced a robust increase in imports; this points to an increase in the availability of jobs that require higher levels of safety measures. The same can be said for manufacturing jobs in flour, cement, and sugar factories, again just to name some. Accidents like the 2019 tragedy at the Civic Centre and falling accidents at construction sites in Belize City and San Pedro have shown that the Occupational Safety and Health Bill's time for enactment had arrived. Of course, for the families affected it was past due, the PUP in 2025 was ready to pass the bill despite the usual opposition.

In January 2014, the incompetent Barrow United Democratic Party tabled an OSH bill, and then nonfeasance set in. A hindsight timeline will remind Belizeans of these: the Penner Immigration Scandal emerged that year, Visa Irregularities were nonstop, Castro and cheques bounced around, Sanctuary Bay was active unbeknownst to the public, inexperienced Anwar Barrow was placed as Executive Chairman of BTL, and the bloated price of 650 million for BTL was being cooked up. At the end of 2013, Prime Minister Dean Barrow infamously asked his cabinet to "For God's Sake, Stop it," and "I believe that the Lands Department, unfortunately, is another hotbed of corruption". The UDP was deeply politically compromised, and buying another election trumped any social justice bill. PetroCaribe was rolling into the wrong pockets, and history has recorded that the UDP did anything they could to subvert and electioneer the 2015 election in the corrupt UDP's favour. This would be the second consecutive election to be corrupted, as a 2013 audit has alluded to a rigged 2012 election in favour of the UDP. The OSH bill could not withstand a corrupt government hell-bent on trying its best to be the worst.

The planBelize government was ushered in in November 2020, with Belize being like a rented building with nasty tenants who had to be evicted by the Belizean people for crassly overstaying their lease. There was an economy to overhaul and a lethal coronavirus to defeat. In June 2025, with unprecedented vigour, job availability, and a confidence-brewing economy with record Foreign Direct Investment, a Construction Boom, Agriculture, and Tourism sectors pushing regional-leading GDP growth, and with a new supermajority mandate, the modernised OSH Bill was reintroduced. Of course, the Opposition and opponents of the bill were similar to those who opposed the minimum wage bill. The excuses abounded and ranged from Belize is not ready, "Where are the studies?" and That it would cause more inflation. The tens of thousands of Belizeans who stand to benefit would definitely disagree and are waiting for the raise to six dollars. The OSH Act is awaited by hundreds of thousands of people in Belize.

Once enacted and implemented, the Occupational Safety and Health Act will directly and positively impact our workers in the workplace. Its revision and modernisation will surely give peace of mind to thousands of families and their breadwinners. This is one where the Opposition is expected to set aside their dissent and support. Even as they skipped its last reading and passage in the House, by choosing to shirk their duties at the House on February sixth, the Opposition is sure to support this latest planBelize iteration of the OSH. Multiple public sector stakeholders, the Unions, and government ministries have been waiting as well, and now the OSH is ready to be a part of the Belizean workplace.

The OSH Act is designed to ease families' concerns about their loved ones' safety, as workplaces will be required by law to be safer. The responsibilities of employers and workers will be spelt out by strengthening enforcement mechanisms and reporting systems. The law will establish a National OSH Advisory Committee to guide policy and standards, and create an OSH Inspectorate within the Labour Department. It will also provide clarity to the duties and responsibilities of employers, workers, designers, suppliers, and property owners. The introduction of strong whistleblower protection will ban reprisals and enable a form of human surveillance. The procedures for reporting and investigating accidents and occupational diseases will be formalised, and the guesswork should be down to nil. The act will provide for additional enforcement tools, including improvement, prohibition, and closure notices for infractions, as well as penalties.

PlanBelize 2.0 is people-centric. The most successful businesses should also be people-centred. The OSH Act is people-centric as it looks to ensure that Belizean progress is on the right track. The OSH Act will ultimately be relevant to Belize, as it aligns with ILO Conventions 155 and 187 and supports goals under the Decent Work Country Programme 2024–2029. The planBelize vision is to improve the quality of life of Belizean workers, so that dreams become reality. At the very least, 400,000 people will win under the OSH Act.

en Español

LA SST ESTÁ AQUÍ PARA NOSOTROS

El 6 de febrero de 2026, el Partido Unido del Pueblo reforzó aún más su base de justicia social con un proyecto de ley cuya relevancia actual es inversamente proporcional a la tasa de desempleo históricamente baja, que se ha mantenido por debajo del 2 % durante un año. Los materiales de construcción, como las bobinas de acero galvanizado, los cilindros metálicos, el cemento para la construcción y la madera de pino tratada, por nombrar algunos, han experimentado un fuerte aumento de las importaciones, lo que apunta a un incremento de la disponibilidad de puestos de trabajo que requieren niveles más altos de medidas de seguridad. Lo mismo puede decirse de los puestos de trabajo en las fábricas de harina, cemento y azúcar, por citar solo algunos ejemplos. Accidentes como la tragedia de 2019 en el Centro Cívico y las caídas en las obras de construcción en la ciudad de Belice y en San Pedro han demostrado que había llegado el momento de promulgar el proyecto de ley de seguridad y salud en el trabajo(SST). Por supuesto, para las familias afectadas el tiempo ha vencido, el PUP en 2025 estaba dispuesto a aprobar el proyecto de ley a pesar de la habitual oposición.

En enero de 2014, el incompetente Partido Unido Democrático de Barrow presentó un proyecto de ley sobre seguridad y salud en el trabajo y luego se produjo una situación de inacción. Una cronología retrospectiva recordará a los beliceños lo siguiente: ese año salió a la luz el escándalo de inmigración de Penner, las irregularidades en los visados eran constantes, Castro y los cheques rebotaban, Sanctuary Bay estaba en activo sin que el público lo supiera, el inexperto Anwar Barrow fue nombrado presidente ejecutivo de BTL y se estaba cocinando el inflado precio de 650 millones para BTL. A finales de 2013, el primer ministro Dean Barrow pidió a su gabinete, de forma infame, que «por el amor de Dios, paren eso» y «creo que el Departamento de Tierras, por desgracia, es otro foco de corrupción». El UDP estaba profundamente comprometido políticamente y comprar otra elección prevalecía sobre cualquier proyecto de ley de justicia social. PetroCaribe estaba cayendo en los bolsillos equivocados y la historia ha registrado que el UDP hizo todo lo posible para subvertir y manipular las elecciones de 2015 a favor del corrupto UDP. Esta sería la segunda elección consecutiva que se corrompe, ya que una auditoría de 2013 aludió a una elección amañada en 2012 a favor del UDP. El proyecto de ley sobre salud y seguridad en el trabajo no pudo resistir a un gobierno corrupto empeñado en hacer todo lo posible por ser el peor.

El gobierno de PlanBelice tomó posesión en noviembre de 2020, con Belice como un edificio alquilado, con inquilinos desagradables que tuvieron que ser desalojados por el pueblo beliceño por haber incumplido groseramente el plazo de su contrato de alquiler. Había que reformar la economía y derrotar a un coronavirus letal. En junio de 2025, con un vigor sin precedentes, disponibilidad de empleo y una economía que generaba confianza con una inversión extranjera directa récord, un auge de la construcción, los sectores de la agricultura y el turismo impulsando un crecimiento del PIB líder en la región, y con un nuevo mandato de mayoría cualificada, se reintrodujo el proyecto de ley modernizado sobre seguridad y salud en el trabajo. Por supuesto, la oposición y los detractores del proyecto de ley eran similares a quienes se opusieron al proyecto de ley sobre el salario mínimo. Las excusas abundaban e iban desde «Belice no está preparado», «¿Dónde están los estudios?» y «Eso causaría más inflación». Las decenas de miles de beliceños que se beneficiarían de ello estarían, sin duda, en desacuerdo y esperarían el aumento a seis dólares. Cientos de miles de personas en Belice esperan la Ley de Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo.

Una vez promulgada y aplicada, la Ley de Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo tendrá un impacto directo y positivo en nuestros trabajadores en el lugar de trabajo. Su revisión y modernización, sin duda, darán tranquilidad a miles de familias y a sus sustentadores. Se espera que la oposición deje de lado sus discrepancias y la apoye. A pesar de que se saltaron su última lectura y aprobación en la Cámara, al optar por eludir sus obligaciones en la Cámara el 6 de febrero, la oposición seguramente apoyará este último plan de Belice sobre la SST. Múltiples partes interesadas del sector público, los sindicatos y los ministerios gubernamentales también han estado esperando y ahora la SST está lista para formar parte del entorno laboral beliceño.

La Ley de SST está diseñada para aliviar las preocupaciones de las familias sobre la seguridad de sus seres queridos, ya que los lugares de trabajo estarán obligados por ley a ser más seguros. Las responsabilidades de los empleadores y los trabajadores se detallarán mediante el refuerzo de los mecanismos de aplicación y de los sistemas de notificación. La ley establecerá un Comité Consultivo Nacional de Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo para orientar las políticas y las normas y creará una Inspección de Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo dentro del Departamento de Trabajo. También aclarará las obligaciones y responsabilidades de los empleadores, los trabajadores, los diseñadores, los proveedores y los propietarios de inmuebles. La introducción de una sólida protección de los denunciantes prohibirá las represalias y permitirá una forma de vigilancia humana. Se formalizarán los procedimientos de notificación e investigación de accidentes y enfermedades profesionales y se reducirán al mínimo las conjeturas. La ley preverá instrumentos de aplicación adicionales, entre ellos notificaciones de mejora, prohibición y cierre por infracciones, así como sanciones.

PlanBelice 2.0 se centra en las personas. Las empresas más exitosas también deben centrarse en las personas. La Ley de SST se centra en las personas, ya que busca garantizar que el progreso de Belice avance por buen camino. En última instancia, la Ley de SST será relevante para Belice, ya que se ajusta a los Convenios 155 y 187 de la OIT y respalda los objetivos del Programa de Trabajo Decente para el País 2024-2029. La visión de PlanBelice es mejorar la calidad de vida de los trabajadores beliceños para que los sueños se hagan realidad. Como mínimo, 400 000 personas se beneficiarán de la Ley de la SST.

PATRIOTISM GOES VIRAL FOR BELIZE'S FLAG AT SUPERBOWL LX

Thanks Nyah!

Patriots vs Seahawks presented probably the biggest viewer haul for ONE event worldwide for this year. For Belize, this has definitely probably been our greatest exposure during only a few seconds. Social Media went on to multiply that ad infinitum probably.

The championship game of American Football, often call World Championships, was held on February 6 in San Francisco, California. In the USA itself, Superbowl Sunday is almost a national holiday with practically everyone knowing the event is on and, at least, a third tunes in. For the newbies and non-NFL fans, the highlights of the game are the events before and the commercials and the halftime show which have arguably become larger than the actual game. With approximately 135 million viewers, whoever performs at the halftime show, they have better be incredible as the critics are often louder than the satisfied, even when the satisfied are greater in number(this is the political case in Belize atm).

The artist Bad Bunny was the main act of this 2026 sixtieth Superbowl halftime and he wowed. For Belizeans, the show will be historic as our blue, white and red was paraded right in the middle of the human-props sugarcane field, just behind the USA and Puerto Rican flags.

The posts were instant and positively viral. Belizean patriotism oozed from all over the world. A little damper was that Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio skipped mentioning Belize as he listed, in rap, all of Central American countries, then Mexico. The overarching conclusion, nevertheless, was a feeling of a massive arrival at that legit world stage.

Thanks Bad Bunny… and a greater thanks to Belizean-American 18-year-old Nyah Davis who proudly carried our flag--virtually to the front. She is a recent high school graduate and has some Guatemalan roots as well but was very happy to apply to go through the rigorous process to be the flag carrier of our flag.

Belize Flag Waved at Super Bowl:
"Worth it 100%"
THE ONLY THING MORE POWERFUL THAN HATE IS LOVE
ALTHOUGH SHE IS ALSO OF GUATEMALAN HERITAGE, DAVIS CHOSE TO CARRY BELIZE'S FLAG IN HONOUR OF HER GRANDMOTHER
NEWS5 BREAKING NEWS
@NEWS5BELIZE
TIP LINE: 672-5555

"After I prayed, the nervousness left me." Nyah thanks her grandmother who made sure that she learnt about her culture. Nyah looks forward to coming to Belize.

UDPs & the Sista B Way

Skip Meeting & Get Paid

On February 6, at the first House sitting at the newly renovated National Assembly building, the UDP knocked out themselves and went down for the THREE count all too easily. Tracy promised, after Lee pushed her and the Yellow goon out of the BTL compound, for at least a couple more rounds of violent crassness and vile incompetence.

The UDP who corrupt everything have even managed to corrupt how to have a Peaceful Protest.

Thugs have NO support in Belize. The people are smart and mature, ask Jules--he pushes the UDP narrative even faking on being Independent-minded and has lost eight elections with his style of sensational news manufacturing.

So then, the incompetent UDP upon realizing that PUP will show support at the House sitting, they chickened out. Without support of the usual daily crowd out by Princess Margaret Drive and without the Unions they lied to about peaceful protests, the lowly, lord-underfunded UDP displayed a mix of shame and laziness—the Sista B-style of skipping House meetings.

Hon. Kevin Bernard of Orange Walk East called out the Opposition for shirking their duties and for not supporting the Occupational, Safety and Health Bill.

Hon. Bernard:

"Madam Speaker,

It is deeply disappointed that on the second reading of such an important and long-overdue piece of legislation — a Bill that directly protects the lives, health, and safety of Belizean workers — the Opposition chose boycott over responsibility.

One has to ask: does the Leader of the Opposition and the UDP truly care about Belizean workers?

Because if they did, they would be here in this House today — debating, contributing, and standing up for the very people this Occupational Safety and Health Bill is designed to protect.

Leadership is not about absence. Leadership is about showing up.

Instead of boycotting, they should have come into this chamber and shown the Belizean people whether they genuinely support safer workplaces, stronger protections, and better standards for our workers.

And let us not forget — they had thirteen years in government and failed to modernize this law. Thirteen years, and nothing was done.

Today, it is a PUP Government, under the steady and committed leadership of Prime Minister John Briceño, that is delivering real protections for Belizean families.

While they walk away, we get the work done.

This side of the House will always choose progress over politics and people over posturing."

Minister Bernard went on to present in support of the OSH bill. *(see speech on Page 7)*

NAVCO ELECTS A NEW PRESIDENT CONGRATULATIONS to ROSAURA CHAN

Continued from page 2

On February 7, The National Association of Village Councils elected Village Council Chair Rosaura Chan as national president. This National Association is responsible for Rural issues. Each District has their representative association called DAVCO and they met to elect their executive. The new president is the San Estevan Chairlady and a career teacher.

She and her team repeated in the San Estevan Village Council Elections of 2025. Belizeans will remember that the PUP won most of the 190plus villages in July 2025 which cemented the March 12, 2025 General Elections mandate.

Rosaura Chan is a dedicated educator and community leader from the village of San Estevan in the Orange Walk District. The youngest of ten children, she grew up grounded in the values of resilience, humility, and service. She holds a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and is currently pursuing her doctoral studies at Universidad Internacional San Isidro Labrador (UISIL) in Costa Rica. Her academic and professional journey reflects her strong commitment to educational excellence and transformative leadership.

With 18 years of experience in education, Rosaura currently serves as the Vice Principal of Academics at Orange Walk Technical High School, where she plays a pivotal role in strengthening academic standards and student achievement.

In 2022, she was elected Village Chairperson of San Estevan, thus expanding her leadership beyond the school setting and into community development. Under her guidance, the village council has twice been awarded Village Council of the Year, a testament to her collaborative spirit, vision, and dedication to progress. Rosaura continues to inspire others through her unwavering commitment to education and community empowerment.

More on NAVCO: The National Association of Village Councils (NAVCO) in Belize is a collaborative, umbrella organization that represents and supports the over 190 village councils across the country. As a formally established body under the Village Council Act, its primary role is to strengthen the voice of rural communities, advocate for resources, and promote rural development.

Key roles and responsibilities of NAVCO include:

Advocacy and Representation: NAVCO represents village councils and rural residents at national forums, meetings with the government, and in discussions with the Elections and Boundaries Commission.

Capacity Building: The organization works to improve the ability of rural leaders to manage their communities, ensuring that village councils can effectively fulfill their mandates.

Rural Development Support: NAVCO helps identify, develop, and implement economic and social programs within rural communities.

Local Government Coordination: It acts as a bridge between the local District Association of Village Councils (DAVCOs)—which exist in all six districts—and the central government.

Community Support: During times of crisis, such as hurricanes, NAVCO assists in coordinating information and advising village chairpersons.

Infrastructure and Services: The organization aids in overseeing the delivery of services and infrastructure improvements in rural areas, such as water systems, electricity, and the construction of low-income housing.

The organization is governed by a National Board of 12 members, with representatives from each of the six District Associations.

The work of progress in rural Belize continues.

BELIZE MORE TRANSPARENT ACCORDING TO CPI

Barrow Excluded Belize in 2008

Ministry: "Modest Improvement Recorded in Corruption Perceptions Index 2025" (transparency.org)

While Tracy, the Barrow disciple, falsely and scandalously blurts out accusatory slurs of corruption against the PlanBelize Briceño administration, for transparency measures in the world announces that Belize has made small but important improvements in transparency.

A search for the Barrow years yields a No Result splash. This was commonplace for an administration linked to a litany of scandal and corrupt departments. The latter was self-admitted by Dean Barrow himself. In 2020 the people voted all UDP out with a few mistakes in Albert, Collet and the like. Collet has since been rectified. Incompetence and corrupt were the make adjectives for the 2008-2020 UDP.

Our Ministry of Immigration, Governance and Labour has stated that the publication of the 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) by Transparency International via Tranparency.org, reflects Belize's return after a 17-year absence provides an external benchmark for assessing public sector governance.

Belize totalled 36 points out of 100 which reflect an improvement from its previous score of 29 in 2008, and is ranked 104th among 182 nations. While the results indicate that governance challenges remain, the improvement is noted within a global context where many countries in the region have experienced stagnation or decline.

The Ministry notes that the CPI measures perceptions of public sector corruption and does not assess specific issues. It should be regarded as a diagnostic reference that may be used to guide policy direction, highlight areas requiring reform, and support data driven decision-making by the government of Belize.

The Ministry's approach is further informed by internationally recognized governance instruments, including the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC). These frameworks provide structured guidance on preventive measures, institutional integrity, and accountability mechanisms, and support alignment between national reform efforts and Belize's international obligations.

Minister of Immigration, Governance and Labour Kareem Musa added "The Corruption Perceptions Index is a useful benchmark, but our focus remains on implementation. The Good Governance Unit is updating and developing new proposals for reform which will be submitted for Cabinet's consideration in keeping with established good governance and development frameworks."

The Ministry reveals that while the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 provides a welcomed external reference point, they emphasize that governance reform is driven by national policy objectives and institutional mandates, not rankings. The Ministry remains focused on implementation, recognizing that durable improvements in governance are achieved through sustained policy action, institutional reform, and consistent oversight.

A tool that Belize definitely has to improve our standing in the People's Constitution Commission report. The government has a majority that is an opportunity to make changes for te better. But this government is more transparent than the index indicates. Subscribing to the index is definitely a positive step. Next year and the subsequent we can begin to follow and keep the government accountable as it is very open to accepting other opinions. With our region not doing too well in this index, it means that there is much work in order to fit into their scales.

The work continues.

Resilient Bold Belize
GEF Blue and Green Islands IP Child Project
Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Duty Station: Belize City

The Government of Belize, through the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit (BBFP), invites applications for the position of Finance Assistant under the Resilient Bold Belize (RBB) Project, part of the GEF Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program. The RBB Project supports the long-term conservation and resilience of Belize's marine and coastal ecosystems while promoting sustainable livelihoods and strengthening financial and institutional systems for people-centred conservation. The project is executed by the Government of Belize (BBFP) with WWF-GEF US serving as the GEF Agency.

Position Summary

The Finance Assistant will be based in Belize City within the BBFP Unit and will provide financial and administrative support to ensure efficient and compliant project implementation. The position supports budgeting, financial reporting, procurement, contract administration, and audit processes in accordance with WWF (GEF Agency) requirements and Government of Belize financial procedures.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist in budget preparation, expenditure monitoring, and financial reporting
- Maintain accurate and auditable financial records
- Validate and process payments in accordance with approved budgets
- Support procurement processes and contract administration
- Prepare financial inputs for donor reporting and Project Progress Reports
- Assist with audits, evaluations, and compliance monitoring
- Provide administrative and logistical support for project activities

Qualifications and Experience

- Minimum Associate Degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, or related field (bachelor's degree is an asset).
- At least three (3) years' experience in financial management, accounting, or budgeting.
- Experience in donor-funded projects, government institutions, or NGOs preferred.
- Demonstrated experience in budget preparation, financial reporting, expenditure monitoring, audit support, procurement, and contract administration.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel and accounting software (e.g., QuickBooks).

Interested applicants may request a copy of the Full Terms of Reference by **e-mailing**: rbbpm.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz with the subject line **"Financial Assistant TOR."** Full TOR is also available on the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit's **Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages**.

Applications must be submitted no later than **Friday, March 6th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**
All applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. The Committee will conduct due diligence to verify the information provided in the CV and during the interview process.

VACANCY NOTICE LIBRARIAN

High Court Library - High Court of Belize

Salary/ Pay Scale: Pay Scale 9 - $16,980 x $816 - $32,494

The Senior Courts of Belize invites suitably qualified applicants to fill the post of Librarian, responsible for the effective management of the Supreme Court Library and its holdings.

Key Duties (Summary):

- Acquire and maintain law journals, case and textbooks, periodicals, publications and judgments.
- Regulate use of the Library by attorneys-at-law, court prosecutors and paralegals (with support of the Assistant Librarian).
- Maintain catalogue/cardex and inventory systems for all library materials, chattels and equipment.
- Arrange repairs of books and equipment and ensure proper upkeep of the Library.
- Serve as Liaison Officer with the Solicitor General's Office.
- Conduct legal/library research for Judges and approved users, as requested.
- Maintain an up-to-date computer database of all library books and texts.

Qualifications / Requirements:

- Library coding and cataloguing skills.
- Computer literacy and ability to maintain library databases.
- Knowledge of legal terminology and strong research capability.
- Excellent public relations and customer-service skills.
- Ability to work efficiently without supervision and work well with others.
- Paralegal Studies would be an asset.
- Minimum five (5) years' experience in a related field.
- Applicants should be 25 years and older.

How to Apply:

All applications must be submitted by email and addressed to the following emails:

DPatterson@registry.gov.bz dpatterson@belizejudiciary.org
KBrooks@registry.gov.bz, kbrooks@belizejudiciary.org

Deadline for Submission: 28 February 2026

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

REQUEST FOR BID (GOODS)

ACQUISITION OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-MFEDI - CEU-521381-GO-RFQ
Deadline: **February 23, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the World Bank for the Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project, being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds of the Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project for the procurement and delivery of **Lab Equipment and Resources** (hereinafter called "Goods"), to support project implementation, as follows:

No.	Goods	Quantity
Lot 1	Field & Safety Equipment	Available in the bidding document
Lot 2	Water Quality Instruments	Available in the bidding document
Lot 3	Drones & Imaging	Available in the bidding document

Bidders may submit a bid for **One Lot or for All Lots**. Each bid must include every item within the selected lot to be considered responsive.

The Ministry of Finance invites bidders to access the complete bidding document at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit bids in accordance with the instructions provided in the bidding document.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan

Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

REQUEST FOR BID (GOODS)

ACQUISITION OF PROJECT VEHICLES

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460796-GO-RFB
Deadline: **February 23, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the World Bank for the Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project, being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the proceeds of the Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project toward the procurement and delivery of **Vehicles and Related Equipment** (hereinafter called "Goods"), to support project implementation, as follows:

No.	Goods	Quantity
Lot 1	Upgraded Pickup Trucks	5
Lot 2	Upgraded Pickup Truck (MT)	1
Lot 3	Utility Pickup Trucks	5
Lot 4	All-terrain 4x4 pickup trucks	1
Lot 5	SUVs	3
Lot 6	PHEV SUVs	2
Lot 7	Vessel with Engines and Trailer	1

Bidders may submit a bid for **One Lot or for All Lots**. Each bid must include every item within the selected lot to be considered responsive.

The Ministry of Finance invites bidders to access the complete bidding document at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit bids in accordance with the instructions provided in the bidding document.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

CARTOON

PRINCE'S 19K INCOMPETENCE
BTL
I'M STILL KING OF BOLEDO AND BTL
19K FOR PRINCE
KING OF BTL AND BOLEDO BENTLEY
NOBODY INVITE ME TO BTL FLEECERS LIVE
PETTY SHHHH'
ME NEITHER
FIH HE BACK DRY HURT AS WELL

Supporting the Occupational and Health Bill
Sitting of the House of Representatives
February 6, 2026

OSH STATEMENT BY MINISTER THEA GARCIA-RAMIREZ (COROZAL BAY)
The Minister of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs

Madam Speaker,

I rise in strong support of the Occupational Safety and Health Bill presented by the Honourable Minister of Labour, from the perspective of human development, family protection, and gender equality. Madam Speaker, this Bill is long overdue. For nearly two decades, occupational, safety, and health legislation remained stagnant. For thirteen uninterrupted years under the previous administration, this Bill was left unmoved, ignored, despite repeated calls from workers, unions, and stakeholders. That inaction came at a real cost: preventable injuries and illnesses continued to occur, families lost income, children faced instability, and households were pushed into vulnerability. Today, this Bill represents a decisive correction.

This legislation repeals the outdated Factories Act, a law of limited scope that no longer reflects the realities of Belize's modern, diverse economy. The new framework protects all workers, across all sectors, and establishes clear, modern responsibilities for employers, workers, suppliers, and designers. This clarity is fundamental for prevention and accountability, ensuring everyone who shapes the work environment shares responsibility for safety. The Bill mandates practical, life-saving measures we know are needed. It requires risk assessments, safety training, and the provision of personal protective equipment. It also provides protections against falls and machinery hazards, among the most common causes of workplace injury.

To ensure enforcement and accountability, the Bill creates an Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate with real authority and establishes workplace safety committees. Crucially, it includes whistleblower protections, empowering workers to report hazards without fear of retaliation. From a human development perspective, these protections matter. Workplace injuries or deaths do not affect only the worker-they affect entire families. Income loss, disrupted education for children, and increased caregiving burdens disproportionately impact women, particularly women heads of household and single-parent families. Preventing workplace harm is therefore a direct investment in family stability and child well-being.

From a gender perspective, this Bill advances the objectives of the Revised National Gender Policy (2024-2030). Women remain overrepresented in care work, service industries, domestic work, and informal employment-sectors often facing higher occupational risks and weaker protections. By strengthening standards and enforcement across all sectors, this Bill helps close longstanding gaps and supports women's sustained participation in the workforce.

This legislation is the product of over a decade of development and extensive stakeholder consultation. It reflects a tripartite collaboration between Government, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the National Trade Union Congress of Belize. As past BCCI President Katherine Meighan noted, it is a practical approach, balancing worker protection with business sustainability. The Bill is aligned with International Labour Organization Conventions No. 155 and 187 and supports Belize's Decent Work Country Programme. It meets Belizean needs while reflecting international best practice.

Madam Speaker, at its core, this Bill is about people. It affirms a simple principle: no Belizean should have to risk their life, health, or family's security to earn a dignified living. I commend the current Honourable Minister of Labour and the former Minister of Labour and teams for advancing this long-stalled but essential legislation, and I urge all Honourable Members to support it. In doing so, we correct years of inaction, modernize labour protections, and send a clear message that under this Government, worker safety, family stability, and human dignity are non-negotiable.

We are Right on Track.

Madam Speaker, I fully support this bill.

Thank you!

OSH STATEMENT BY MINISTER KEVIN BERNARD (ORANGE WALK EAST)
The Minister of Minister of Health and Wellness

Madam Speaker,

Today I rise in full support of the Occupational Safety and Health Bill, 2025 — a Bill that is not only about regulation, but about protection, dignity, and the fundamental right of every Belizean worker to return home safe and healthy at the end of the workday. At its core, this legislation recognizes something simple but powerful: that safe work is a public health issue, an economic issue, and a human rights issue. For far too long, our legal framework has relied on an outdated Factories Act that focuses narrowly on traditional manufacturing. But Belize today is different. Our economy has expanded into agriculture, construction, healthcare, maritime services, tourism, and many emerging sectors. Our laws must evolve with that reality. This Bill introduces a modern, comprehensive framework that applies across all workplaces and emphasizes prevention, risk management, and shared responsibility.

From a health perspective, the need is clear. Every workplace injury, every chemical exposure, every untreated ergonomic strain, every mental health stressor — these are not abstract issues. They show up in our clinics, our hospitals, and our national health system. They affect families. They affect productivity. They increase healthcare costs. And they place avoidable burden on our public services.

Prevention is always better — and cheaper — than treatment. This Bill moves us decisively in that direction. It establishes a National Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Committee and strengthens an Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate within the Labour Department to ensure proper inspections, guidance, and enforcement. These structures will allow us to move from reactive responses to proactive prevention. It clearly defines duties for employers and employees alike. It mandates risk assessments, training, and preventive measures. It requires workplace safety committees so that workers themselves have a voice in shaping safer environments.

Most importantly, it protects workers' rights — including the right to refuse unsafe work without fear of penalty and protections for whistleblowers who report dangerous conditions. That is a major step forward in fairness and accountability.

Madam Speaker, as Minister of Health and Wellness, I am particularly encouraged that this Bill recognizes emerging and critical risks — including mental health, chemical safety, biological agents, and ergonomic hazards — and provides targeted measures for high-risk sectors such as agriculture, construction, healthcare, and maritime industries. These are precisely the sectors where we see preventable injuries and illnesses affecting Belizean families.

This legislation is also consistent with our international commitments. It aligns Belize with International Labour Organization standards and our Decent Work obligations, strengthening our reputation as a country that values both workers and responsible business practices.

And let us be clear — good safety policy is good economic policy.

Safer workplaces mean:

-fewer injuries and fatalities,

-lower healthcare costs,

-improved productivity,

Continued on page 9

Announcement on BTL–SMART Matter
Sitting of the House of Representatives
February 6, 2026

MINISTER MICHEL CHEBAT (CAYO NORTH)
The Minister of Public Utilities, Energy & Logistics

Good afternoon. Madam Speaker, I rise with your permission to address this Honourable House and members of the public on the matter concerning the proposed acquisition of SMART by Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL). Given the level of public interest and the importance of the telecommunications sector to our economy, it is important that this process proceeds carefully, transparently, and in accordance with the law.

The Prime Minister has instructed that there be a pause in discussions related to this matter. This pause is intended to allow the parties involved to further engage the public, in a genuine, open and cordial way, and to ensure that the proper regulatory process is followed.

Any proposed acquisition of this nature must first be reviewed by the Public Utilities Commission, which is the independent body mandated to regulate the telecommunications sector.

The expectation is that a formal submission of the proposed acquisition will be made to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), if and when the Boards of the Social Security Board (SSB) and the Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) approve the acquisition allowing the PUC to consult thoroughly, deliberate on the pros and cons, and make a determination based on evidence, law, and the public interest.

Even if this proposed acquisition does not proceed, the PUC has already begun an independent process to determine if BTL is a dominant player in the market and is prepared to make attendant regulations to govern such a scenario to ensure that con-

Continued on page 9

Graham Creek – One Step Closer to Potable Water

Greetings My Beautiful People of Toledo East and Beyond.

Graham Creek is one step closer to having potable water in every household. The community is working together, women, men and children all working together to ensure that the trenches are being dug to connect the pipes to every house. The resilience and determination of this community is second to none and this gives me the determination to work even harder for all the communities in Toledo East.

The bond that we have with our leaders, community members, the support from the government and other stakeholders will transform the lives of our people in Toledo East. I want to thank the Alcalde, Chairlady, village council, water board and the entire community of Graham for the work they continue to transform their community.

We will get there one project at a time. – Hon. Osmond Martinez

NEW RIVER PILOT PROJECT

Over the weekend, Prime Minister John Briceño, alongside BSIF Executive Director Carlos Tun, met with Dr. Jaime Gutierrez of Algae BioSolutions Company, consultant for the New River Pilot Project, during a site visit to one of the project's bioreactors. Dr. Gutierrez outlined the innovative, environmentally friendly methodology being applied to generate critical data aimed at improving river health and strengthening water and sanitation outcomes for surrounding communities. The New River Pilot Project is being funded by the Inter-American Development Bank.

This follows the inaugural Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) meeting held on January 29, 2026, at La Inmaculada Primary School, where stakeholders actively engaged in discussions, demonstrated strong interest in the initiative, and reaffirmed their commitment to collaborative oversight. Through strategic partnerships, science-based solutions, and inclusive governance, BSIF continues to support national efforts toward environmental resilience and sustainable development. (SIF post)

LETTER TO THE Editor

BTL Merger Good to me

Dear Editor,

The PUP has paused the progress towards giving Belize a more solid Telecom company. I am a supporter but not a blind one. So I will sometimes object to any wrong I might sense. Wholly my op…

I am not sure why we allowed the little voices of the corrupt UDP to overrule us. They are not even present in the house. This merger is obviously good for the owners of BTL—the people.

I know it is difficult but the PUP in my op is NOT bleeding. Yes, it was self-imposed a political bruise because we are too transparent. We want to please everyone even the UDP and that is a good thing but it hurts. ONLY rabid UDPs will make up stories of a bleeding PUPs. Only ultra-careful PUPs will feel that as well.

Lastly Editor, please spread the word, it is NOT an acquisition, NOT a consolidation, it is a Merger.

The first two terms are used by again, ULTRA UDPs….they want to sound negative.

Acquisition is a negative term used in hostile takeover usually of a business that is different from the stronger one.

Consolidation I used when two business fizzle out to begin a new one

Merger is when two similar companies or similar business come together.

Newsflash, if the UDP keeps using the acquisition word it must be negative. And consolidation is plain mischief.

Amalgamation? Nah, let's stick to the positive 'merger'. And let's do it quickly or let it go.

In my humble op….

Thank u, editor

Big Net User

LOVE IS MORE THAN A FEELING.

LOVE IS PROTECTION. LOVE IS RESPECT. LOVE IS ACTION.

Ministry of
Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs

Love Protects.
Love protects children from harm.
Love safeguards women and families.
Love ensures dignity for persons with disabilities.
Love supports those facing crisis.
Healthy love does not hurt.
Healthy love does not control.
Healthy love does not exploit.
Real love uplifts.
Real love empowers.

From a Ministry Perspective, Love Means Responsibility.

Through the work of the:

- Family Support & Gender Affairs Department
- Department of Human Services
- Community Rehabilitation Department

We stand daily for protection, empowerment, and inclusion.

If You Need Support, We Are Here.

Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs
Building Stronger Families. Creating Safer Communities.

Belize Featured Internationally

The Best Restaurants in Belize - From Border Towns to Beachfront Seafood Staples

By Eric Barton from <<theadventuristmagazine.com>>

My trip to Belize began with a road trip, from the airport in Belize City, through the scrub brush and swampland and the impossibly knobby mountains that rise up like massive mango roots. We ziplined, tubed through caves, explored a Mayan pyramid, and then flew east out to the islands, sandy strips of land in impossibly blue ocean waters.

Along the way, I kept doing the same thing: asking locals where they actually eat. I followed the smoke from grills. I ate tacos late-night in the glow of fluorescents. And I started the day the way Belizeans do: stuffing eggs and creamy refried beans into fry jacks.

From the best roasted pibil to seafood that was swimming that morning, here are the best Belize restaurants, the places I will build my next trip around.

Benny's Kitchen San Jose Succotz Belize Best Restaurants

This is the kind of open-air Belizean restaurant that feels more like you've been invited into a local's home. The menu leans into Mayan and Belizean staples: we started with salbutes, fried tortillas topped with flavorful stewed chicken and incredibly fresh pico. From there, I went with the pibil, the slow-cooked, achiote-stained pork that showed up with rice and beans and thick tortillas burning hot from having just come off the comal. There's good options for vegetarians too: my traveling partner ordered eggs sauteed with leafy greens that might have been the tastiest thing on the table.

Chef Juan's Kitchen & Pastries, Caye Caulker

This one has the rare double threat of a full lunch-and-dinner menu that can also end in pastries. There's plates like jerk fish and grilled whole spiny lobster, all served with slaw and rice and beans. The overall vibe is straightforward and unfussy: order, sit, eat, then seriously consider a slice of whatever Juan baked that day, including the island's best Key lime pie.

Cool Beans, San Pedro

Cool Beans sits on a dock stretched into the cerulean sea, so breakfast here includes stunning views from inside or from the little stretch of outdoor seating. Order the fry jacks with beans and eggs, the seafood Benedict, or the lunch items like barbecued wings, seared tuna, and burgers.

Elvi's Kitchen, San Pedro

Ask someone who just got back from Belize for their favorite restaurant, and there's a good chance Elvi's name comes up, because it leans into Mayan and Belizean roots. The kitchen makes good use of fresh seafood, both stewed or simply grilled or fried, and the overall feel is classic, established, and busy enough that reservations become less of a suggestion at dinner.

Lagom Terrace, Belize City

This rooftop bar is an escape from the busy street level, with obvious perks: views, drinks, and a soundtrack that sets the tone. The food reads like smart bar fuel—pork pibil, big bowls of ceviche, and grilled beef tacos. There's a good chance that sunset cocktails turn into an all-night idea.

The Truck Stop, San Pedro

The Truck Stop is a shipping-container food park that solves the nightly San Pedro problem—nobody agrees on dinner—by letting the table scatter and reconvene with tacos, noodles, and pizza. Start with queso birria tacos and consommé from Sol Fresca, add wok-fried pork dumplings or pad thai from Rasa, and then order ice cream from Cool Cone, ideally in milkshake form. The vibe is lagoon-side and activity-forward, with a saltwater pool, a beer garden, and a calendar of trivia, movie nights, and live music that turns "just grabbing dinner" into an evening.

(For the full pictorial and info, access the website)

OSH STATEMENT BY MINISTER KEVIN BERNARD (ORANGE WALK EAST)

Continued frompage 7

-higher worker morale, and

-stronger businesses.

In other words, protecting workers strengthens the economy. It is not a burden; it is an investment.

I also want to commend the extensive consultation process behind this Bill — engaging employers, unions, civil society, and multiple ministries, including the Ministry of Health and Wellness — ensuring that what we bring today reflects national consensus and practical realities.

Madam Speaker,

This Bill sends a clear message: development must never come at the expense of the health and safety of our people.

As a government, we are saying that every construction worker, every farmer, every nurse, every technician, every public officer — every Belizean worker — matters. Their safety matters. Their dignity matters. Their lives matter.

For those reasons, and in the strongest possible terms, I support the Occupational Safety and Health Bill, 2025, and I urge all Honourable Members of this House to do the same.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MINISTER MICHEL CHEBAT (CAYO NORTH)

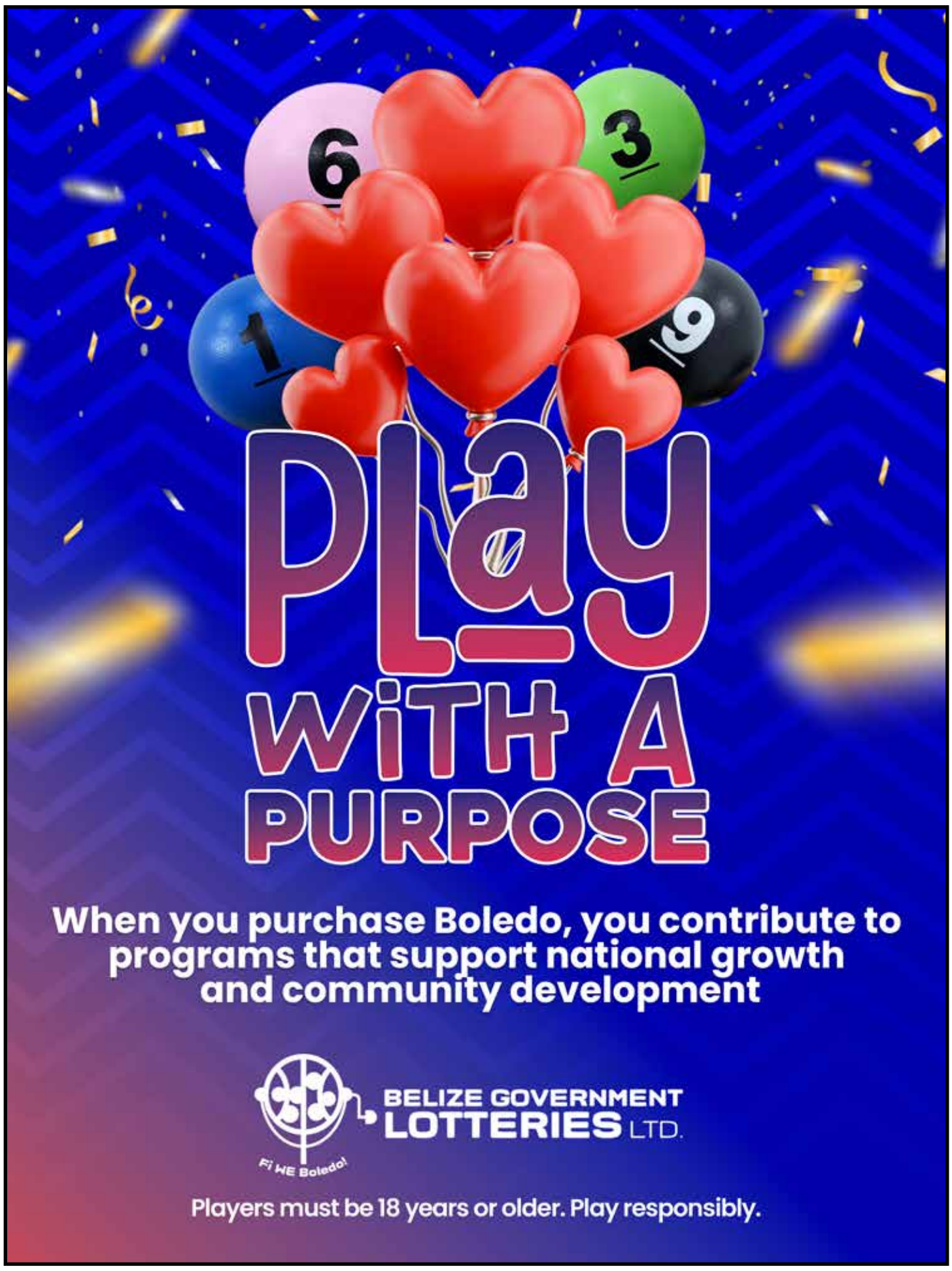
Continued frompage 7

sumers are fully protected.

Our role is not to pre-empt or substitute the work of the regulator, but to respect and uphold the integrity of the regulatory framework. Issues such as competition, consumer choice, service quality, pricing, and long-term sector sustainability among other factors must be carefully examined. The people of Belize must be the ultimate beneficiaries.

The Government assures Belizeans that this process will be guided by transparency, fairness, and due process. The interests of consumers and the national interest will remain paramount. This Government, through the Ministry of Public Utilities, will continue to keep the public informed as the process moves forward.

I Thank You, Madam Speaker.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WITH A
PURPOSE
When you purchase Boledo, you contribute to programs that support national growth and community development
BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD.
Fi WE Boledo!
Players must be 18 years or older. Play responsibly.

PM Visits City Schools

February signals about the midpoint of the school year.

Today, I dropped in to visit students of Unity Presbyterian School, St. Ignatius and St. Joseph Primary Schools.

The hugs, smiles and cheers always re-energize me. I was able to talk with teachers and administrators. Education is a central pillar of Plan Belize 2.0... accessible and affordable education for all children in Belize. (PM Post)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

PROJECT COORDINATOR – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Strengthening Public Expenditure Management Program
Process ID: BL-L1038-P00111
Duration: One (1) year
Duty Station: Ministry of the Public Service, Training and Development Unit, Belmopan, Belize (In Office)
Deadline: **March 16, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the **"**Strengthening Public Expenditure Management (SPEM) Program" being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"Project Coordinator"** who will support the Ministry of the Public Service for Component 1.4 of the Project.

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-project-coordinator-under-strengthening-public-expenditure-management-spem-program-individual-consultant-bl-l1038-p00111-mof-2026/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: "Project Coordinator - SPEM- [Applicant's Name]

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

TECHNICAL OFFICER – BELIZE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-MFEDI - CEU-522972-CS-INDV
Duration: Twenty-Four (24) Months
Duty Station: Belize Solid Waste Management Authority **(BSWaMA)**, Belmopan,
Deadline: **March 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the execution of the **"**Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project", being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"Technical Officer" - Belize Solid Waste Management Authority.**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Expression of Interest and Terms of Reference (TOR) at https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-technical-officer-individual-consultant-bz-mfedi-ceu-523003-cs-indv-mof-2026/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building, 2nd Floor, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: Individual Consultancy – "Technical Officer– Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project– [Applicant's Name].

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

SUPPLY OF LUBRICANTS FOR MAINTENANCE OF MIDH EQUIPMENT FLEET

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), hereby invites interested suppliers to submit financial proposals for the Supply of Lubricants for the Maintenance of MIDH Equipment Fleet as per specifications contained therein in the Invitation for Financial Proposals that will be provided upon your request.

A maximum of three months will be allowed to the successful supplier to deliver the lubricants to the MIDH compound in Belmopan.

In your submission, kindly include the following information:

- Company Incorporation / Business Registration Documents
- Copy of Good Standing Certificates from Companies Registry, Belize Tax Services and Social Security (3 certificates total)

Effective **Monday 16 February 2026** the Invitation for Financial Proposals document is available either via hard copy or by electronic means by contacting the address below.

All proposals should reach the office of the Chief Engineer at the address below no later than **Friday 20 February 2026** at **10:00 am**. The Ministry shall not accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the applicants.

Attention: **Mr. Evondale Moody**
Chief Engineer / Engineering Coordinator
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
BELIZE C.A.

Tel: +501-828-5221
Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

btl Belize Telemedia Limited | Digi Our National Telecom

Proposed BTL & SPEEDNET

Know Di Facts

Belizean Ownership

- 4 year payback
- ~200% increase on a Shareholder return on a $5 share annually
- ~26% Annual Returns

~130% increase in Dividends annually
(driven by efficiency, not price hikes)

What it means for Customers?

- Keep plans & prices or better value bundles without price increase
- No forced switching, no hidden fees
- 36-month price caps and full PUC oversight
- 12-month transition and 24-month integration period

Connecting New Communities

- 20,000 new customers
- 43 Cell Sites redeployed Countrywide
- Connecting areas with limited or no mobile services with a focus on Toledo, Belize & Cayo Districts

Learn more at https://livedigi.com/knowdifacts/

Our National Telecom

Building Careers from Telco to TechCo

Expanding our team as we continue leading Belize's Digital Transformation from:

Current on seat **500+ Employees**

Proposed **~700+ Employees**

Ready to connect 1 Million customers to Digi's network

- 4G LTE Advanced+
- Already serving ~214,000+
- Capacity to welcome Smart's ~90,000 customers

Welcome to the Digi Family

Joining Digi gives you better value

- Bigger, stronger network
- Flexible Value Bundles
- DigiTV
- DigiWallet

Digi Fiber to the Home

- 106,000+ Homes Passed Countrywide (90%)
- Smart's 8,000 customers have the opportunity to join our ~44,000+ strong network

Resilient Bold Belize
GEF Blue and Green Islands IP Child Project
Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: SAFEGUARDS AND GENDER OFFICER

Duty Station: Belize City

The Government of Belize, through the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit (BBFP), invites applications for the position of Safeguards and Gender Officer under the Resilient Bold Belize (RBB) Project, part of the GEF Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program. The RBB Project supports the long-term conservation and resilience of Belize's marine and coastal ecosystems while promoting nature-based livelihoods and inclusive, people-centred conservation planning. The project is executed by the Government of Belize (BBFP) with WWF-GEF US serving as the GEF Agency.

Position Summary

Under the supervision of the GEF Project Manager, the Safeguards and Gender Officer will lead the implementation and monitoring of the project's Gender Action Plan (GAP), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The Officer will ensure that gender equality, social inclusion, and environmental and social safeguards are fully integrated across all project components and that community engagement is conducted in an inclusive, equitable, and culturally sensitive manner.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and ensure gender mainstreaming across project activities
- Oversee compliance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
- Coordinate inclusive stakeholder consultations, including engagement with Indigenous and local communities
- Establish and manage the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)
- Develop safeguard instruments (e.g., ESMPs, IPPs, LRPs) as required
- Support reporting, monitoring, and capacity building on safeguards and gender integration

Qualifications & Experience

- Bachelor's degree in Gender Studies, Social Sciences, Sustainable Development, or related field (advanced degree desirable).
- Minimum 3 years' experience in gender mainstreaming, social safeguards, and community engagement in Belize/Caribbean.
- Knowledge of safeguard frameworks, gender integration standards, and participatory planning.

Interested applicants may request a copy of the Full Terms of Reference by **e-mailing**: rbbpm.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz with the subject line **"Safeguards and Gender TOR."** Full TOR is also available on the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit's **Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages**.

Applications must be submitted no later than **Friday, March 6th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**
All applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. The Committee will conduct due diligence to verify the information provided in the CV and during the interview process.

Resilient Bold Belize
GEF Blue and Green Islands IP Child Project
Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICER

Duty Station: Belize City

The Government of Belize, through the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit (BBFP), invites applications for the position of **Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management (MEK) Officer** under the **Resilient Bold Belize (RBB) Project**, part of the GEF Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program. The RBB Project supports the long-term conservation and resilience of Belize's marine and coastal ecosystems and promotes nature-based livelihoods through a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative led by BBFP. The project is executed by the Government of Belize (BBFP) with WWF-GEF US serving as the GEF Agency.

Position Summary

Under the supervision of the Project Manager, the MEK Officer will lead the implementation of the project's Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management systems. The Officer will ensure effective tracking of results, compliance with Government of Belize and WWF-GEF reporting requirements, and evidence-based adaptive management. The role includes maintaining the project Results Framework, overseeing work plan tracking, supporting Project Progress Reports, and strengthening partner monitoring systems across all project components.

Key Responsibilities:

- Implement and oversee the project's M&E Plan, Results Framework, and work plan tracking
- Monitor and analyse project performance data to support reporting and decision-making
- Support preparation of semi-annual and annual Project Progress Reports
- Conduct field verification visits and strengthen partner monitoring systems
- Design and manage a centralized M&E database
- Facilitate project learning, annual reviews, and knowledge products

Qualifications & Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in environmental science, Natural Resource Management, Program Evaluation, Statistics, Economics, or related field (Master's degree an asset).
- Minimum three (3) years' experience in M&E for donor-funded projects (e.g., GEF, UN, IDB, WB, CDB).
- Proven experience designing and implementing Results-Based Management (RBM) systems, indicators, baselines, and targets.
- Proficiency in statistical/analytical software (e.g., R, SPSS, Stata) and database tools (e.g., Excel, Smartsheet).

Interested applicants may request a copy of the Full Terms of Reference by **e-mailing**: rbbpm.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz with the subject line **"M&E Officer TOR."** Full TOR is also available on the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit's **Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages**.

Applications must be submitted no later than **Friday, March 6th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**
All applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. The Committee will conduct due diligence to verify the information provided in the CV and during the interview process.

NOTICE

Request for Prequalification (RFPQ)

Utility-Scale Solar PV Projects in Belize (80 MW)

IFC International Finance Corporation WORLD BANK GROUP

Project Overview

Total Capacity: Up to 80 MW of grid-connected utility-scale solar PV

Commercial Structure: Independent Power Producer (IPP) model

Sites: 3 to 4 locations across Belize

Role of the Private Sector: Design, finance, construct, own, operate, and maintain the solar PV facilities

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), in partnership with the Government of Belize (GoB) through the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics (MPUEL), and with advisory support from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), invites qualified private-sector developers to participate in a Request for Prequalification (RFPQ) for landmark utility-scale solar PV projects in Belize.

To deliver this initiative, the GoB has engaged the IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, acting through its Advisory Services division, as lead transaction advisor. The Project is being structured under the globally recognized Scaling Solar initiative, which promotes an open, competitive, and transparent procurement process to accelerate the deployment of privately owned utility-scale solar projects.

Procurement Process

The RFPQ represents the first stage of a competitive bidding process. Its purpose is to prequalify developers with the technical experience, financial capacity, and delivery capability required to implement large-scale solar PV projects within an accelerated timeframe. Only prequalified bidders will be invited to participate in the subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) stage.

Objectives of the Project

This strategic investment is a cornerstone of Belize's energy transition and is intended to:

- Increase renewable energy generation to support Belize's target of 75% renewable electricity by 2030
- Reduce foreign exchange outflows associated with electricity imports
- Strengthen national energy security and system reliability

Access to RFPQ

The full RFQ document, including eligibility criteria, submission requirements, and timelines, is available at:

www.bel.com.bz/Tenders

Belize is open for clean energy investment. Qualified developers are encouraged to participate in this transformative project that will shape the country's sustainable energy future.

Powering Progress Together EU-BEL-GoB

Achieve Milestone in Rural Electrification Project

Indian Church Village, San Carlos, San Benito Poite, Jalacte, and San Vicente benefitting

The inauguration of the Rural Electrification Project was held on Thursday, February 5, 2026, in Indian Church Village, Orange Walk District, marking a major milestone in providing electricity to rural communities across northern and southern Belize. The event was held under the partnership of the European Union (EU), Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), and with the support of the Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, and Logistics (MPUEL).

The project brings safe, reliable, and sustainable electricity to the villages of Indian Church, San Carlos, San Benito Poite, Jalacte, and San Vicente, empowering communities, supporting agriculture, and enhancing the overall quality of life.

The initiative began in 2021, when the EU, BEL, and Lait Up Belize collaborated to secure funding to electrify underserved communities. In 2022, a formal agreement between the EU and BEL, with support from the Government of Belize, officially launched the project.

Originally envisioned as a micro-grid initiative, community engagement and technical assessments highlighted the critical importance of connecting Indian Church and San Carlos directly to the national grid, ensuring long-term reliability and maximum impact on local agriculture and livelihoods. The project includes a 10-mile interconnection to the national grid, fully funded by BEL, alongside electrical infrastructure jointly funded by the EU and BEL, including utility poles, distribution lines, transformers, street lights, and home wiring.

The inauguration ceremony also marks the start of household wiring, a crucial step to ensure all residents can connect and fully benefit from electricity for homes, farms, and local businesses.

Reflecting on the importance of this milestone, Hon. Michel Chebat said:

"*This project is a clear demonstration that rural communities matter and that development must reach every corner of our nation. It is a powerful reflection of our guiding mantra: no village is left behind.*"

Highlighting BEL's central role in making this project a reality, Karique Marin, General Manager for Distribution and Energy Solutions, shared,

"*We are not just turning on power; we are powering progress together, for these communities and for the country of Belize, Electricity has the power to transform how families live, how farmers operate, how small businesses grow, and how young people plan for the future.*"vAniceto Rodriguez-Ruiz, Head of Cooperation for the EU Delegation to Belize, Jamaica, and the Bahamas, added,

"*This initiative is set to illuminate not just homes but lives and possibilities. " Thanks to the partnership established between the Government of Belize, BEL, and the EU we are now connecting 150 households to the electrical grid, thus empowering people with the resources they need to thrive*".

The EU, BEL, and the Government of Belize reaffirm their commitment to sustainable development and continued collaboration to expand energy access across the country, ensuring that no community is left behind. This milestone reflects, not only a successful partnership, but also a bright future for rural Belize.

-END-

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: VEHICLES
Belize City, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following vehicles. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these vehiclesare sold.

VEHICLES

2024 Ford Ranger XLT

2020 Kia Sportage

2017 Chevy Cruze

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

WORLD BANK GROUP

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIC ANALYST
&
BLUE ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize
Project:	Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Duration:	Twelve (12) Months
Duty Station:	Blue Economy Unit, Belize City (In Office)
Deadline:	**March 3, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize received loan financing from the World Bank and grant financing from the PROBLUE Multi-donor trust funds, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project, a five-year initiative being implemented by the CEU in the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the following contractual services within the Blue Economy Unit of the Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation:

1. **Environmental Economic Analyst**
2. **Blue Economy Development Officer**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of the Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) for both positions at http://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities / or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Officer
Ministry of Finance
3rd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

39th Meeting of IDB Governors for Central America

America en el Centro Program

February 10, 2026 - Belize participated in the 39th Meeting of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, held in Panama as part of preparations for the 2026 IDB Annual Meetings. Belize was represented by Mrs. Narda Garcia, Alternate Governor of Belize to the IDB and Chief Executive Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Investment and Civil Aviation, and by Ms. Cinnamon Bottaro, Belize's Representative on the Board of Directors at the IDB.

The high-level regional meeting brought together Governors and Ministers of Finance from Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic to strengthen regional dialogue, align public policy priorities, and advance coordinated actions at a critical juncture for the region. Through direct engagement with IDB Senior Management, the meeting served as an important consensus-building forum to define shared priorities, promote regional integration, and ensure coordinated participation with the IDB ahead of the 2026 Annual Meetings.

The meeting highlighted initiatives aimed at strengthening competitiveness and inclusive growth, notably the launch of Talent Up, a regional initiative designed to expand digital skills, attract investment, and improve productivity. For Belize, Talent Up aligns closely with the Global Digital Services Project, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, which supports the development of Belize's Global Digital Services Investment Policy. Together, these initiatives seek to upskill entry-level workers and business process outsourcing (BPO) professionals, address skills gaps, and better position Belize to meet global demand for higher-value digital services. Through the partnership between Google and the IDB, Belize will be granted 10,000 scholarships to provide skills in cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and data analytics.

In addition, the meeting facilitated strategic bilateral engagements that enabled countries to advance national priorities within a broader regional framework. On the margins of the meeting, Belize held productive bilateral discussions with IDB President Ilan Goldfajn, as well as with the Ministers of Finance of Costa Rica and Guatemala. These discussions explored opportunities to strengthen Belize's engagement with regional partners and identified areas where joint action can amplify development impact.

Belize reaffirmed its commitment to regional integration and to working closely with the IDB and partner countries to promote sustainable development, competitiveness, and inclusive growth across Central America and the wider region. (release)

IDB Group governors, ministers of finance and economy, private-sector leaders, and strategic partners discussed ways to boost sustainable growth through IDB Group's regional program América en el Centro, focusing on regional integration and investments in talent, together with key joint priorities for the year ahead. "América en el Centro" is a regional development program designed as an umbrella to address common and cross-border challenges faced by countries in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CAPDR). The initiative seeks to unlock the region's potential, promote sustainable development, and foster resilience. (release)

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Belize
Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP)
Loan No.: 9347 BE
Project ID No.: P172592
Assignment Title: Procurement Officer
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): BZ-SIF-519231-CS-INDV

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") is for a suitable qualified fulltime PROCUREMENT OFFICER as part of the Project Implementation Unit of the CRESAP within the Belize Social Investment Fund. The Procurement Officer will be primarily responsible for the management of project procurement activities undertaken as part of the CRESAP implementation, conduct the international and national bidding process for goods, non-consultant services, consultant services and civil works; prepare and submit bid evaluation reports, negotiate contracts and make recommendations for awarding contracts, conforming to terms and conditions stipulated in the subsidiary agreement and World Bank Procurement Regulations.

The GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the project and the BSIF is seeking to recruit an individual to fill the position of Procurement Officer.

The consultancy is expected to be for an initial of Twelve (12) months commencing March 2026. The Procurement Officer will be supervised by the Project Coordinator (PC) of the CRESAP.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained by submitting a request in writing via e-mail to **procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org.**

The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites eligible individuals ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (such as cover letter, Curriculum Vitae etc.).

Minimum Mandatory Requirements *(Required)

Qualifications
- Bachelor's degree in Law, Procurement, Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, or any other field related to this assignment (max 20 points).

General Experience
- Five (5) years' experience working in public or private sector performing tasks that include drafting of reports, chairing of meetings, writing meeting minutes etc. (max 20 points).

If these minimum requirements are not met, candidates will not be considered for the process

Additional Requirements (Desirable)
Specific Experience
- Three or more years working experience at procurement officer level (max 30 points)
- Working experience conducting procurement under strict guidelines of IFIs (e.g. World Bank, IDB, CDB, EU etc.) (max 20 points)
- Experience working in a project environment (max 10 points)

Minimum total points required to be considered for the assignment is 75 points.

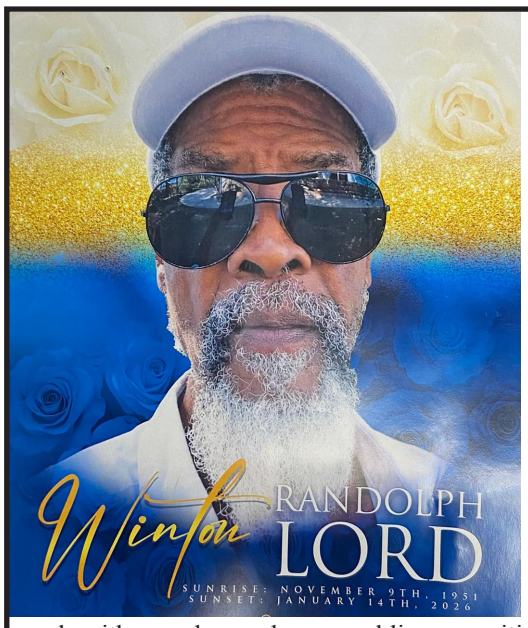
The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours Belize Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **February 18, 2026** at 16:00 hours Belize Time.

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Orlando Coc, Procurement Assistant
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org



EULOGY
Winton Randolph Lord
"Music is life itself"
Delivered by Chairman Hon. Henry Charles Usher

I can't remember at what age my brother PJ and I first met Tall B, but we were very young. And I don't know how it is that my mother, who was very strict with us growing up, allowed her two young sons to hang out with this "weed smoking, jive talking, feech driving, dice throwing, jazz listening, Louis Lamour Westerns reading, incredible human being, but I am so grateful to her for doing so. Tall B was a great man whose life reminds us that "greatness" does not have to be loud. While some people leave their mark with grand speeches or public recognition, Tall B left his mark through every day deeds and actions – through consistency, through character, through loyalty and through love.

Dorla, Carol, Shaheda and the entire family it is truly and honour for me to speak today about Winton Lord, known as 'Slim' in his younger days, 'Tall B' to most of us, 'Tall C' if you at Bizmark, 'Tallest', 'Tallers' or to some of the younger guys just coming out as 'Ancient One'. I don't think that name was because of his age, but rather because he was a walking encyclopedia of knowledge on just about any subject.

Tall B was a humble man. Not because he lacked strength or wisdom, but because he never felt the need to prove it. He didn't seek attention or praise. He listened more than he spoke, but when he spoke you had better listen because it mattered.

I wonder if back on November 9, 1951 when Ms. Beatrice named him Winton, she knew how appropriate a name it really was. In old English the name Winton means "friendly place". And that is exactly who Tall B was, a friend, to everyone. His kindness showed up in patience, in forgiveness, and in the way he treated everyone with dignity. No matter who you were or where you came from, you mattered to him. He believed that all people deserved respect.

As a young boy Tall B gave his share of trouble, of course, as we have heard. But he knew that Ms. Beatrice belt was waiting if she found out. And it is his mother that he credits for teaching him discipline and resilience. He always told me how much he loved his mother and admired the way she cared for the family. It was she who taught him the value of continuous education through a love of reading.

And did Tall B love to read. He always had a book with him. But his favourites were the Louis L'Amour westerns. I don't know where he got them, but he seemed to have an endless supply. "To the Far Blue Mountains" "The Warrior's Path" "Fair Blows the Wind" These are just some of the titles I can remember. Tall B would read the Belize Times and argue politics at the Biz. No one could top him because he knew all the facts.

Winton came of age in the exciting decades of the 60s and 70s, the age of revolution. Civil rights, music, fashion, it was a wild ride of change. And Tall B was right there enjoying it all, the bell bottom jeans, the afro hair and of course jazz music. He had his own style and moved at his own speed. Everyone is familiar with Tall B's speed. No matter how much he was urged. No matter how urgent the task Tall B just shrugged and said "Really!" But you know what, the job always got done.

Some of his friends at the time included Paul Stock, Alaister King, Bob Joslin, Anthony Chanona, and my Uncle Mike Usher. And they shared some colourful adventures to say the least. I'll have to save those stories for another time. But it was he and Mike Usher who were really inseparable, working the oil business. He once told me that he and Mike ran a survey line from Corozal to Toledo, hiking through jungle, braving the wildlife and elements and enjoying themselves all the way. If they had to run the line through private property Mike would go talk to the landowners first, but it was usually Tall B that had to seal the deal. He just had a way with people. I smile to think about the reunion he and Tio Mike are now having.

Tall B worked on a Texan oil rig and, of course, he had to put up with a lot of unsavory comments. But that didn't faze him. As a matter of fact, he worked his way up from a regular worker to a motor man, earning the respect of the roughnecks. Slim, as he was called, was part of the crew, and they looked out for each other, especially when the corporate big wigs would come around complaining.

Tío Mike and Tall B were pioneers of the oil industry in Belize. Mike believed that our country was blessed with oil and Tall B was right there to support him, always telling anyone who was willing to listen that there was more oil in Belize, we just needed to know where to look. Tall B knew the directors of BNE personally. He got along with them easily and treated them the same like everyone else. It's a testament to who he was to have been able to touch so many lives.

Tall B started to work at the Usher Residence sometime in the 1980s after Mike asked him to. What probably started off as a temporary arrangement turned into years of dedicated service. My grandfather, Henry Charles, had a soft spot for Tall B, bailing him out of trouble on a few occasions. Gramps even gave him boledo advice that Tall B remembered always, that "if yu bruk, buy yu age." But it was Miss Jane, Granny Jane, who really formed an unlikely bond with Tall B. Oh there were many, many, many scoldings but Gran had Tall B's back. And Tall B loved her like his own mother. I don't know how many times my Uncle Clement would shake his head, when Tall B came to ask for money to do something for Gran, because he knew Gran would say yes. And when Tio Mike died Tall B played an even more important part in Gran's life.

It was in the 80s that my life's arc intersected with Tall B's, as PJ and I were thrust into Tall B's world by a very brave mother. But Ms Leni knew that Tall B would not let anything happen to us. She probably realized that we needed a little toughening up, but she also recognized that Tall B had a special way with us. He cared for us. He protected us. He guided us and believed in us – sometimes before we believed in ourselves. He taught us about principles, about values, the importance of honesty, responsibility and hard work.

We went to Majestic and Palace Theatres with him. We went to Bismark Club to play table tennis, of course I may have learned dominoes, cards and a little dice too. But these are life skills, right? We rode our bikes to the 5 miles, took the bus when the weather was bad, hitchhiked when we took too long to catch the last bus. Summer holidays were spent fishing, paddling dory to the Pint or to a small mangrove island we called Guana Island, because the first time we went there a huge iguana jumped into the dory. Needless to say, PJ and I abandoned ship. But not Tall B. He just laughed and told us the iguana was probably more afraid of us.

We swam in the river, ate coconuts, caught soldier crab and johnny fiddler more for the fun of it than as actual bait, hooked blue crab to sell at Yabra but not the wash spaam – Tall B said those were poisonous. We played basketball, shot bee bee guns and generally held back Tall B from doing the work he was supposed to be doing.

And the one truism that he reinforced in us was "If you practice fool you will be a fool". Oh mein, PJ and I took that to heart. We did not want to be fools in front of Tall B, so we made sure we didn't practice it.

But it wasn't just the two of us who benefitted from Tall B's presence. All the grandkids and our friends grew up with Tall B and we all remained close because of it. Tall B taught us loyalty and the value of family. Tall B sat with us as we did our homework, helped out with school projects, did repairs in our homes, took us to football games. He even wore Sagitun and Altitude t-shirts much to the chagrin of Kulture Yabra and Port Layola FC. He was always seen with his Tipsy Tuna hat and made sure that we had to visit Salva if we were anywhere close to Placencia. He went to BDF events to support Bobby D and Francis. He attended all baptisms to make sure he met the new generation. He was always just a phone call away.

Even in his late years, Tall B had a gentle way with children. Just ask his next door neighbour Tanya, whose young daughter was always looking out for Tall B. Whenever I went to visit Tall B on Saturdays she was say "Mr. Tall B somebody come look for you".

There is no doubt that we are who we are today, because we had a role model like Tall B. He stood faithfully by our sides from the time we were boys to when we became men, ready to face the world armed with the values he instilled, grit, humility and selflessness. So Mom, the slight exposure to herbal medication was worth it.

Tall B was right there by my side when I got married to Jamie. He promised me that he was going to celebrate to the fullest and that he did. He was right there by my side when I became Chairman of the Party, travelling with me countrywide to meetings, conventions and elections. He especially enjoyed the village council elections, because those could get passionate. There was an especially memorable one in Hattieville where Tall B was on the front line staring down the opposition.

On these road trips as Reebo drove and I took a little nap Tall B was checking the GPS on his phone. He was never without that GPS, always wanting to track his trip. But also checking out the terrain. I guess he was reminiscing about his oil surveying days.

Tall B was a proud member of the People's United Party. He believed in the principles of the Party to serve the people, to promote social justice. He put others first and believed in the task of Nation Building. He called George Price Tio George and proudly wore a shirt with his image to every Party event. He was a member of the PUP Fort George Committee and nominated me as a candidate in both elections. He celebrated every victory with me, always reminding me that my job was to do the best for the people every day. It is my duty to live up to his expectation and example.

He died on January 14th, 16 days ago. Some people may say that was a long time in between. But I think it fits Tall B well. After all, in life he took his time. And he would have wanted Brian and all his family here. And to his family. Thank you for lending out this great man. As children he would take us to your homes and you welcomed us.

Shaheda and Junior, your Dad loved you immensely. You were his world, and there wasn't anything he wouldn't do for you. And don't even ask about Briana and Briel. He adored them. He was so proud of you, Shaheda and the job you were doing as a mother.

I mentioned earlier that Tall B loved jazz. He would put on those head phones and be lost in a world of Dave Brubeck, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday and so many more. One of his favorites was Duke Ellington, who famously said **"Music is life itself"** meaning music transcends even death. Like a good jazz ensemble Tall B's life was lived in between the notes, a little change of course from time to time, a loud bang followed a long period of smooth then it all repeated itself again at his own speed but in the end the perfect mix. I hope the jazz is on fulltime loop Tallest and you singing those tunes and dancing to the beats all the while twirling that beard.

And so…

We must honour Tall B by making his legacy transcend death. By not only remembering who he was but by carrying forward what he stood for. By choosing humility over pride, kindness over indifference, faith over fear, service over selfishness.

If we do that – even a little – then Tall B's life continues to matter, not just in memory, but in action. And that is the mark of a truly great life.

Thank you…

VACANCY NOTICE
NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR I
High Court of Belize

Salary / Pay Scale: Pay scale 19 - $36,554 x 1511 - $65,263.00 per annum

The Senior Courts of Belize invites applications for the post of Network Administrator I. This position supports the modernization of the Judiciary by developing and managing secure, reliable network infrastructure across all judicial districts, including VPNs, firewalls, and judiciary-wide IT phone systems.

Key Responsibilities (Summary):

- Manage and update the Judiciary's website.
- Plan and coordinate installation of in-house and remote network hardware/software across the organization.
- Design and implement strategic plans to ensure network capacity meets current and future requirements.
- Develop and maintain policies, procedures, and training for network administration and appropriate use.
- Test and monitor network performance; produce statistics and reports.
- Ensure optimal operation of routers, switches, hubs, UPSs, standby generators, and related network equipment.
- Maintain effectiveness of security solutions (firewalls, anti-virus, intrusion detection/prevention) and monitor security threats.
- Research and recommend network products, services, protocols, and standards; support procurement and development.
- Assist with vendor/contractor negotiations to secure network products and services.
- Administer network equipment and upgrades; define and document network infrastructure and configurations.
- Establish backup/restore strategy and tested recovery plans; implement redundancy planning.
- Maintain asset inventory and documentation; establish service level agreements with end users.
- Support 24/7 availability of critical IT infrastructure and applications.

Qualifications:

- Essential: Bachelor's degree in computer science / information technology (or related field) with five (5) years' experience supporting computer networks; OR Bachelor's Degree and at least two (2) appropriate certifications (e.g., CCNA, Security+) with minimum seven (7) years' experience supporting computer networks.
- Desirable: Bachelor's degree in computer science / information technology (or closely related field) with seven (7) years' experience supporting computer networks; AND at least two (2) appropriate certifications (e.g., CCNA, Security+).

Experience (Preferred):

- Installation of microcomputer hardware/software; configuration and administration of local and wide area networks.
- Four (4) years' experience installing microcomputer hardware/software and administering
- LAN/WAN, including two (2) years implementing IT projects.
- Managing and configuring enterprise-wide LANs, WANs, VPNs, and related technologies.
- Supervisory capability is an asset.

Key Competencies / Skills:

- Strong knowledge of legacy and current innovations in information systems; network and PC operating systems.
- Hands-on installation/troubleshooting of servers, routers, bridges, switches, hubs, modems, and NICs.
- Knowledge of networking topologies; protocols/standards (ISO); securit deployment/administration; server applications.
- Structured network cabling/patching experience; ability to research networking issues/products; knowledge of VOIP technologies.
- Strong leadership and personnel management skills; excellent written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills.
- Highly self-motivated, detail-oriented, analytical and solution-focused; strong customer service orientation; able to prioritize under pressure; collaborative team worker.

How to Apply:

All applications must be submitted by email and addressed to the following emails:

DPatterson@registry.gov.bz **dpatterson@belizejudiciary.org**
KBrooks@registry.gov.bz **kbrooks@belizejudiciary.org**

Deadline for Submission: 28 February 2026

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Coastal Defense Project
Bringing New Hope to Monkey River Residents

Over the early February 2026 weekend, work officially began on a government-funded coastal protection project in Monkey River Village, marking what residents and officials describe as a long-overdue intervention to combat severe shoreline erosion in the small southern community.

The project, valued at approximately $306,000, started last week and is expected to be completed by the end of the month. Toledo East Area Representative Hon. Dr. Osmond Martinez confirmed that the initiative specifically targets sections of the shoreline where erosion has steadily advanced toward residential properties, threatening homes, and community infrastructure.

For years, Monkey River has faced the harsh realities of climate change. Rising sea levels and intensified wave action have eaten away at the coastline, forcing some families to relocate and leaving others fearful about the future of their homes. The village, once buffered by natural coastal features, has seen those protections diminish over time.

"*There has never been any climate effort that was implemented to mitigate the erosion problems in Monkey River*," Hon. Martinez said, calling the project historic for the community. "*This is indeed the first time that a government is giving them some attention."*

He went on, "*The people of Monkey River were so discouraged because they were afraid that, at the pace the erosion was coming, they would be left with no home and would become climate change refugees.*"

The first phase of the project involves the installation of bollards designed to reduce the force of waves where the Monkey River meets the Caribbean Sea. These structures are expected to slow water movement and stabilize vulnerable shoreline areas that have been particularly hard-hit.

A second phase will focus on safeguarding the village burial ground, which has increasingly come under threat from encroaching waters. Residents have expressed concern that without intervention, it could be washed away — a prospect that has deep emotional and cultural implications for the tight-knit community.

Hon. Martinez emphasized that the project would rely primarily on natural mitigation methods rather than heavy cement structures or piling systems. The decision, he said, reflects a commitment to balancing environmental preservation with protective measures. By using approaches that work with natural coastal dynamics, officials aim to minimize ecological disruption while strengthening resilience.

"*Studies were done before, but nothing came out of them*," Dr. Martinez said, underscoring that the current administration has moved beyond analysis to implementation.

The project has received the necessary environmental clearance from the Department of the Environment and is proceeding with support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Local Government.

Beyond shoreline stabilization, the government is also looking ahead at long-term sustainability measures. Plans are underway to establish a wildlife sanctuary in Monkey River, to be co-managed by the community and the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE). The sanctuary is expected to promote conservation, strengthen eco-tourism opportunities, and enhance environmental stewardship within the village.

Residents have welcomed the developments as a sign that their concerns are finally being heard. For a community that has watched the sea steadily claim land year after year, the sight of equipment and active work along the shoreline represents hope and reassurance.

While Hon Martinez acknowledges that this project alone will not eliminate the risks posed by climate change, he describes it as a critical first step in protecting vulnerable coastal communities.

As work progresses over the coming weeks, villagers are cautiously optimistic that the measures will slow the relentless advance of erosion and provide much-needed security. For many, the project is more than infrastructure — it is a commitment to preserving homes, heritage, and the very future of Monkey River Village.

Belize Featured Internationally 10 chocolate experiences around the world

by Jennifer Earle
Published: July 16, 2025 at 4:23 PM

Take a chocolate-fuelled trip for a holiday filled with chocolate factory tours, workshops and tastings, from the UK to the Caribbean.

The nearly eight million Britons who reach for chocolate daily can take their obsession further by centring their holidays around a deeper exploration into their favourite treat. For those inspired to recreate their discoveries at home, delving into a variety of chocolate recipes can extend the joy well beyond the trip itself.

The opportunities to explore great chocolate while travelling are ever-growing, but this selection from the UK, Europe, and the Americas comes highly recommended by chocolate tour guide and expert Jennifer Earle, who has been planning all of her vacations around chocolate for the past two decades.

From annual festivals to year-round decadence and adventure, there are plenty of options around the world, and closer to home, to learn a little while also consuming an abundance of chocolate. Many do need to be booked in advance.

Chocolate experiences in Central America and the Caribbean

For the ultimate chocolate experience, it's worth considering visiting one of the equatorial countries where cocoa trees flourish. There's nothing quite like the sight and taste of the weird and wonderful cocoa fruit, which looks as though it's been plucked straight from a Roald Dahl or Enid Blyton novel.

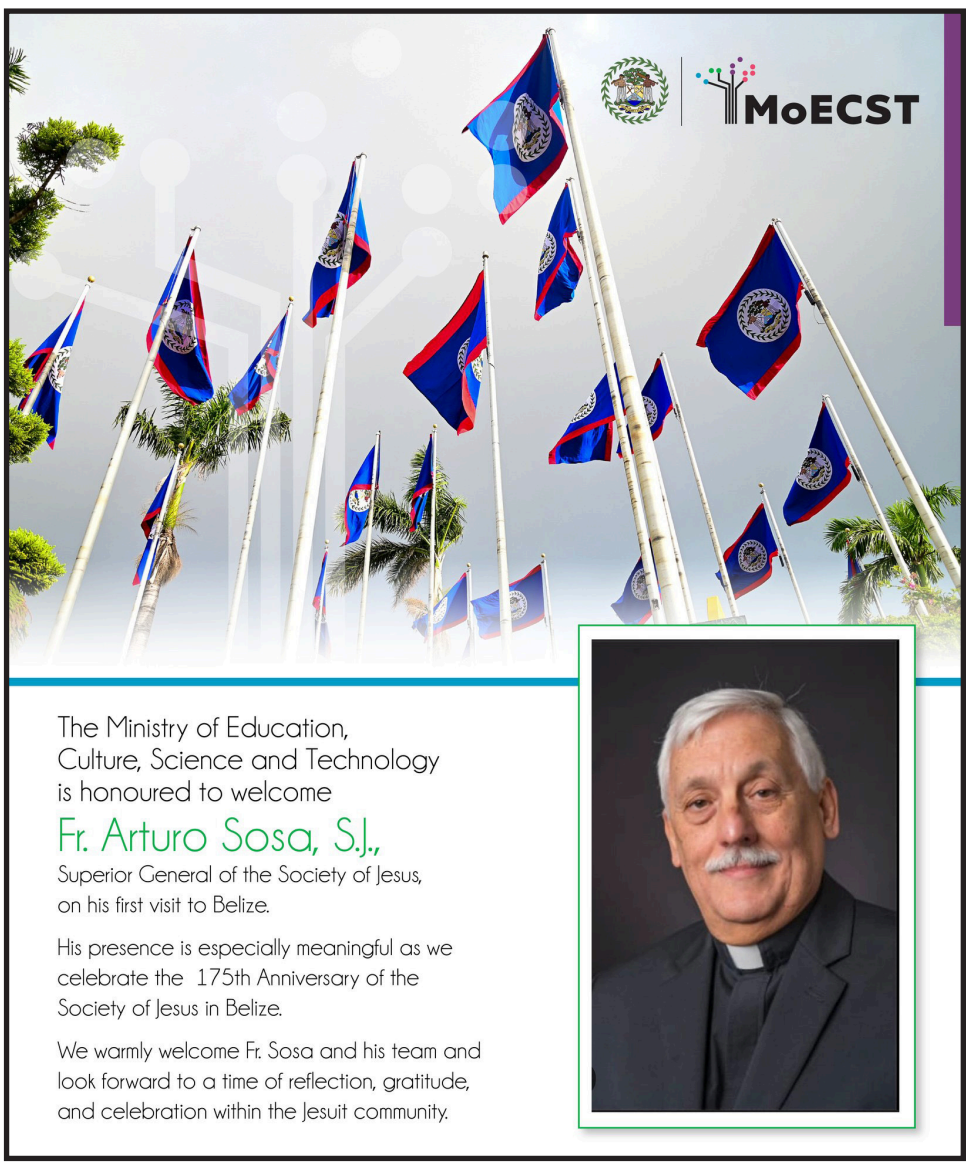
Belize: Cacao harvests and farm adventures

Belize, with English as its official language and beaches perfect for snorkelling and surfing, is already a strong draw for a tropical holiday. The country's beautiful forests are also home to some of the rarest and most highly prized varieties of cocoa.

Che'il Mayan Product's organic farm won an award for sustainable tourism in 2024. The founders offer half-day jungle hikes through the world's only jaguar reserve. The adventure includes an optional waterfall dip, a tamale lunch, traditional chocolate making and a chocolate bar to take home. Hikes from $130 per person.

Gaia Riverlodge (from £216 per night), located two hours inland near the Guatemalan border, offers private cabanas by a waterfall, a hydro-powered electric tram to the river, signature Maya Margaritas and activities including assisting in the cacao harvest (December to June) and year-round bar-making workshops. (More info: olivemagazine.com/travel)

Other nations of the region included are St. Lucia, Grenada, and Costa Rica.


MoECST
The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology is honoured to welcome
Fr. Arturo Sosa, S.J.,
Superior General of the Society of Jesus, on his first visit to Belize.
His presence is especially meaningful as we celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Society of Jesus in Belize.
We warmly welcome Fr. Sosa and his team and look forward to a time of reflection, gratitude, and celebration within the Jesuit community.

INVITATION TO BID

Institution: MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

Tender: **SUPPLY OF TWENTY-FOUR (24) ROLLS OF POLYETHENE DUAL-LAYER COATING TARP TOTALLING AN AREA OF 24,000 SQM**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority within the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management, invites qualified and reputable companies to submit proposals for the twenty-four (24) rolls of Polyethene Dual-Layer Coating Tarp totaling an area of 24,000 sqm.

Bidding Details: The full bidding document, which includes detailed specifications of the required Polyethene Dual-Layer Coating Tarp and instructions for the submission process, can be obtained by sending a request to:

- Email: procurement.officer@environment.gov.bz
- CC: procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz

Deadline for Submission: February 20th, 2026, 10:00 AM

Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. The Ministry reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without obligation or explanation.

INVITATION TO BID

Institution: MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

Tender: **SUPPLY OF GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY-MASS SPECTROMETRY LABORATORY EQUIPMENT & ACCESSORIES**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Department of the Environment (DOE) within the Ministry of Sustainable Development Climate Change &; Solid Waste Management, invites qualified and reputable companies to submit proposals for the **supply and delivery of GCMS laboratory equipment and accessories.**

Bidding Details:

The full bidding document, which includes detailed specifications of the required equipment and instructions for the submission process, can be obtained by sending a request to:

- **Email:** procurement.officer@environment.gov.bz
- **CC:** UrbinaSS@qobmail.gov.bz

Deadline for Submission: February 20th, 2026, 10:00 AM

Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. The Ministry reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without obligation or explanation.

Belize Hosts Closing OCPP Forum From Legacy to Leadership Celebrating Its Legacy and Inspiring Future Ocean Action

The Government of Belize celebrated a major milestone in its ocean governance journey with the hosting of the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) Forum in Belmopan. As the only country in this hemisphere to benefit from this bilateral partnership between the United Kingdom and Belize, the nation stands at the forefront of regional efforts to advance healthy and resilient oceans. Held from Wednesday, February 4, 2026, to Friday, February 6, 2026, the three- day event brought together government leaders, regional and international partners, scientists, youth representatives, and civil stakeholders to reflect on the past five years of meaningful cooperation and to energize a next wave of collective ocean action.

Over the course of the Forum, participants engaged in ministerial discussions, interactive technical working sessions, and youth-focused dialogues highlighting the achievements made possible through cooperation under the OCPP. These sessions explored financing Belize's ocean economy, strengthening partnerships, showcasing impact stories, and demonstrating how science- led technical assistance from the UK has supported Belize across marine conservation, marine pollution reduction, and climate resilience. As the programme transitions toward completion, emphasis is being placed on ensuring that the knowledge, tools, and capacity developed through this collaboration are fully embedded within local institutions, enabling Belizean partners to carry this work forward independently.

Given the leadership role of the Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation under this partnership, Minister Hon. Andre Perez stated, *"These accomplishments emphasize the potential for advancing biodiversity protection, food security, and economic resilience together within the Blue Economy Framework. This integrated approach not only strengthens each area but also paves the way for a more sustainable future."*

Reflecting on the progress achieved through joint action, UK and Belizean scientists, policymakers, and practitioners have worked side by side to build the evidence, skills, and partnerships needed to address shared ocean challenges. Grant Stentiford, Chief Scientist at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) noted, *"It has been a privilege to see the Ocean Country Partnership Programme in Belize from its very beginning through to this point. This collaboration demonstrates the power of applied science to inform policy, strengthen ocean governance, and deliver real benefits for people, livelihoods, and the marine environment. As we move through the UN Decade of Ocean Science, the foundations laid through OCPP provide a strong platform for Belize to continue advancing sustainable and resilient ocean management long beyond the lifetime of the programme."*

As the three-day Forum continued, participants reflected not only on what the partnership has already delivered, but on the momentum that this UK–Belize synergy has created for the years ahead. The discussions, demonstrations, and youth-led insights underscore a shared commitment to safeguarding Belize's marine environment while strengthening the foundations of a thriving, sustainable Blue Economy. With stronger scientific capacity, deeper regional and international collaboration, and a new generation of ocean stewards stepping forward, Belize is well positioned to carry the legacy of OCPP into a resilient and ambitious future for its people and its seas.

The OCPP is a marine science, management and capacity- building programme supporting countries to manage their marine environments sustainably and inclusively, helping to alleviate poverty and adapt to climate change. The programme delivers across three thematic areas: biodiversity protection, tackling marine pollution, and food security from sustainable seafood. (release)

MENgage Update: Sadie Vernon Technical High School Cohort

February 3 - In line with our commitment to engage, educate, and empower young men, the Belize City Council is taking the next step in the MENgage Table Talk Initiative with the rollout of the program for the boys of Sadie Vernon Technical High School.

Implemented with the support of UNICEF Belize, the Department of Youth Services, the Belize Leadership Intervention Unit, the Child Advisory Body Belize City, and valued partners, this phase of MENgage creates safe, intentional spaces for young men to engage in honest conversations around identity, self-awareness, decision-making, and the real challenges they face.

MENgage is more than a program, it is a sustained investment in young men. Through coordinated support provided by program partners and male Youth Shadow Councillors, participants receive consistent mentorship, guidance, and accountability that extend beyond the table talks. This collective approach reinforces positive male role modeling, builds confidence and self-awareness, and strengthens leadership skills through one conversation, one connection, one young man at a time.

Keep in the loop as we continue along this journey with the Sadie Vernon Technical High School team. (post)

PORT of BELIZE LTD
A Port with a Global Perspective

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Port of Belize Limited Shareholders are hereby advised to update their personal information:

REQUIRED INFORMATION:

- An active email address
- Active phone number
- Home address
- Belizean Shareholder must provide:
  Copy of a valid Social Security Card
- Foreign Shareholder:
  Must provide a copy of a valid passport

Deadline for submission:
February 28, 2026

Documents may be delivered to the Port of Belize Limited during regular working hours, or emailed to Corporate Secretary

Email: corporatesecretary@portofbelize.com

501-223-2439 or 501- 280-2439
Port of Belize Limited
Caesar Ridge Road
Belize City, Belize

January 29, 2026

VACANCY NOTICE
CYBERSECURITY SPECIALIST
High Court of Belize

Salary: Pay Scale 21 - $39,821 x 1718 - $72,463.00 per annum

The Cybersecurity Specialist is responsible for developing, implementing and managing security measures to safeguard the Senior Courts of Belize's digital infrastructure, information systems and sensitive data. The role is critical to identifying threats, responding to incidents, ensuring compliance with applicable standards and maintaining confidentiality, integrity and availability of court information systems.

Responsibilities:

- Monitor networks and systems for security breaches, suspicious activity and anomalies.
- Investigate and respond to cybersecurity incidents, performing root cause analysis and forensic reporting.
- Develop and enforce security policies, procedures and best practices.
- Install, configure and maintain firewalls, antivirus software and intrusion detection systems (IDS).
- Conduct regular vulnerability assessments, risk analyses and penetration tests.
- Manage user access controls, encryption protocols, and secure data backups.
- Provide cybersecurity awareness training and simulations for court staff and stakeholders.
- Collaborate with the IT team to secure cloud services, case management platforms, and digital courtrooms.
- Ensure system compliance with the Data Protection Act and international standards (e.g., ISO 27001,NIST).
- Document security breaches and recommend improvements to enhance overall security posture.
- Stay current with emerging threats, technologies, and industry trends.

Qualifications:

Education & Certification:

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Information Security, Cybersecurity or related field.
- Industry certifications such as CISSP, CEH, CompTIA Security+, CISM or GIAC are highly desirable.

Experience:

- Minimum of three (3) years in cybersecurity, IT security administration, or a related role.
- Demonstrated experience in handling cyber incidents and risk mitigation.

Technical Skills:

- Proficiency in security tools (e.g., SIEM, firewalls, IDS/IPS, antivirus).
- Familiarity with Microsoft 365 security features, Windows Server environments, and cloud platforms.
- Knowledge of networking, encryption, and security protocols (e.g., SSL, VPN, TCP/IP).
- Understanding of regulatory and compliance frameworks (e.g., GDPR, ISO).

Core Competencies:

- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- High attention to detail and organization skills.
- Ability to work under pressure and handle incidents swiftly and professionally.
- Effective communication and training skills.
- Integrity, confidentiality, and sound judgement.

How to Apply:

All applications must be submitted by email and addressed to the following emails:

DPatterson@registry.gov.bz dpatterson@belizejudiciary.org
KBrooks@registry.gov.bz kbrooks@belizejudiciary.org

Deadline for Submission: 28 February 2026.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

BPO BUSINESS MIXER PROMOTING DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL DIGITAL SERVICES SECTOR

On Thursday 5, February 2026, the Economic Development Council (EDC), the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), in collaboration with the Belize Process Outsourcing (BPO) Association and the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), hosted a BPO Business Mixer. Industry leaders, innovators, government representatives and partner organizations convened at the event to engage in critical dialogue regarding the challenges facing the BPO sector and to explore solutions aimed at strengthening an enabling environment for sustainable growth within the sector.

Mrs. Narda Garcia, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Office of the Prime Minister in her opening remarks proffered that the event marks a step up in fulfilling the commitment that was made at the Belize Investment Summit to the Belize BPO Association in creating an ecosystem that supports the sustainable growth of the sector. CEO Garcia also emphasized that the BPO sector is no longer an emerging sector in Belize but it is a pillar of our national economy. Additionally, CEO Garcia submitted that at the ministry, the BPO Sector is not solely an investment opportunity, but a long-term development partner and has shown that Belize can compete globally delivering high-quality services, operating across time zones, and can meet rigorous International standards.

Presently, there are a total of 17 BPOs that are benefiting under the Designated Process Area Program (DPA), which provides over nine thousand jobs to Belizeans. As CEO Garcia noted "*This is a significant contribution to the overall 20,000-plus jobs that serve young professionals, experienced supervisors and managers, IT specialists, quality analysts, and support teams across Belize. For many households, BPO wages represent consistent income, health benefits, and opportunities for advancement.*" Importantly, the sector contributes significantly to the economy with total exports based on UNCTAD figures for Deliverable Digital Services totalling BZD 450 million for 2024.

However, CEO Garcia pointed out that the growth of the sector has not been devoid of challenges and should be addressed with utmost transparency, collaboration and urgency which is one of the primary objectives for the BPO mixer as stated above. One challenge that has become prominent in the news is the credit card fraud incidents that undermined and threatened Belize's reputation as a trusted destination for outsourcing. CEO Garcia forewarned that "*This has underscored the need for a robust, multilayered framework to prevent, detect, report, and prosecute cybercrime"* suggesting that *"Government regulators, financial institutions, and BPO providers must operate within established legal, investigative, and regulatory mechanisms that collectively safeguard sensitive financial data and uphold the trust among local and international clients*."

The Director of the Investment, Policy, and Compliance Unit, Mr. Lincoln Blake, gave a presentation on the Global Digital Services Project. This is an initiative funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which focuses on the development of Belize's Global Digital Services Investment Policy, with particular emphasis on the Orange Economy. The project also aims to upskill entry-level workers and BPO professionals to bridge existing gaps and better align Belize's capabilities with the global demand for higher-value digital services. Incidentally, one of the objectives of the 39th Meeting of IDB Governors for Central America is aligned with the above-mentioned project, with the launch of Talent Up, a regional initiative designed to expand digital skills, attract investment, and improve productivity. Through the partnership between Google and the IDB, Belize will be granted 10, 000 scholarships to provide skills in cloud computing, artificial intelligence and data analytics.

In attendance were CEO Tanya Santos, EDC members (CEO Jose Urbina, DG Andy Sutherland, Luis Ugarte, Arturo Lizarraga, William Neal and Albert Reimer), Belize Chamber of Commerce CEO Kim Aikman and President of the Belize BPO Association and members, Directors of government, Panelists, General Managers and representatives of partner organizations, and, most importantly, industry players.

In her concluding remarks Mrs. Narda Garcia noted that "*The Ministry of Investment is committed to supporting these efforts; however, its success will depend on continued collaboration between government, training institutions, and the private sector.*" Garcia reaffirmed that the future of Belize's BPO sector is bright -but it depends on trust, integrity, and partnership. Further noting that "*Tonight's gathering is not just a mixer; it is evidence of the work of your government through the leadership of the Economic Development Council, as a connector providing for dialogue, alignment, and shared responsibility*."

By Hilly Bennett

Belize Hosts Closing OCPP Forum From Legacy to Leadership

Celebrating Its Legacy and Inspiring FuturOcean Action

The Government of Belize celebrated a major milestone in its ocean governance journey with the hosting of the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) Forum in Belmopan. As the only country in this hemisphere to benefit from this bilateral partnership between the United Kingdom and Belize, the nation stands at the forefront of regional efforts to advance healthy and resilient oceans. Held from Wednesday, February 4, 2026, to Friday, February 6, 2026, the three- day event brought together government leaders, regional and international partners, scientists, youth representatives, and civil stakeholders to reflect on the past five years of meaningful cooperation and to energize a next wave of collective ocean action.

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The OCPP is a marine science, management and capacity- building programme supporting countries to manage their marine environments sustainably and inclusively, helping to alleviate poverty and adapt to climate change. The programme delivers across three thematic areas: biodiversity protection, tackling marine pollution, and food security from sustainable seafood. (release)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Institution: MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

Tender: **Consultancy to Update the National Environmental Guidelines for Overwater Structures for Belize (2010)**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Department of the Environment under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management, invites suitable **Consultants** to submit proposals for the review and update of the National Environmental Guidelines on Overwater Structures. (2010) **This Consultancy is for a period of six (6) months from the official start date.**

The General Objective of this Consultancy is:

i. To strengthen the existing 2010 guidelines in addressing current and projected environmental risks and development pressures on the marine environment.
ii. To harmonize and align the guidelines with updated national strategies, policies, plans and legislation, regional frameworks, and international best practices including those environmental conventions such as UNCLOS, CBD, MARPOL, Ramsar, etc.
iii. To integrate climate resilience measures, marine biodiversity conservation principles, pollution prevention and waste management control standards and technological innovations and sustainable building practices.
iv. To strengthen the monitoring, compliance and enforcement framework with measurable indicators.
v. To improve the clarity, accessibility, and practical application of the document for regulators, developers and communities

Scope of Work:

The consultancy will undertake a comprehensive assessment, including but not limited to:

i. Review and assessment
ii. Stakeholder engagement
iii. Technical Integration
iv. Monitoring Compliance and Enforcement
v. Guidelines Development and Validation.

For the full Terms of Reference, which lists required Qualifications, Deliverable Timeline, and Submission Procedures, kindly request via email at procurement.officer@environment.gov.bz with a copy to procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz and eiaunit@environment.gov.bz

Deadline for Submission: February 27th, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Belize
Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP)
Loan No.: **347 BE**
Project ID No.: **P172592**
Assignment Title: **Environmental Officer for Department of Environment**
Reference No. **(as per Procurement Plan): BZ-SIF-519241-CS-INDV**

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The GOB intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing towards hiring an experienced and qualified consultant as **Environmental Officer for Department of Environment** to provide technical support to the Department of the Environment (DOE) in conducting environmental screenings of Moderate-Risk Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) investment applications submitted by potential beneficiary farmers under the CRESAP project. The consultant will work closely with the CRESAP Environmental & Social Safeguard Specialist and the Matching Grant Coordinator and will be supervised by the Environmental Officer of the DOE acting as the Head of Unit of the Project Evaluation/EIA Unit.

The GOB through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Enterprise has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the project and the BSIF is seeking to recruit an individual to fill the position of **(1) Environmental Officer for Department of Environment**.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained by submitting a request in writing via e-mail to **procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org.**

The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites eligible individuals ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (such as cover letter, Curriculum Vitae etc.).

Minimum Mandatory Requirements *(Required)
Qualifications

- Associate Degree in natural sciences, (biology or chemistry or other closely related field), environmental science, agriculture, natural resource management, or any other field related to the assignment (20 points).

General Experience

- Two (2) years of relevant professional experience in the environmental field, for example, reviewing environmental and social risk assessments and applications and proposals for environmental and social aspects. (20 points)

If these minimum requirements are not met, candidates will not be considered for the process

Additional Requirements (Desirable)
Specific Experience

- Experience in environmental and social risk management work in agriculture development projects and knowledge of Climate Smart Agriculture practices. (15 points)
- Experience in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Limited Level Environmental Study (LLES) processes and in developing associated environmental and social monitoring plans and business plans. (30 points)
- Familiarity with the DOE requirements and knowledge and experience preferably with World Bank Environmental and Social Framework and instruments, or with similar standards and policies from other multilateral development institutions. (15 points)

Minimum total points required to be considered for the assignment is 75 points.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours Belize Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **February 27, 2026** at 16:00 hours Belize Time.

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Orlando Coc, Procurement Assistant
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone +501-822-0239
Email: **procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org**
cc: **orlando.coc@sifbelize.org**

WORLD BANK GROUP

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

DATA ANALYST

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460804-CS-INDV
Duration: Eighteen (18) Months
Duty Station: Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation – Belize City, Belize
Deadline: **March 3rd, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the execution of the "Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project" being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"Data Analyst" for the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute.**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) and Terms of Reference (TOR) at http://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities / or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Sr. Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: Individual Consultancy – "Data Analyst" – Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project– [Applicant's Name].

WORLD BANK GROUP

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)/ DATA SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460804-CS-INDV
Duration: Eighteen (18) Months
Duty Station: Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation, Belize City, Belize
Deadline: **March 3rd, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the execution of the "Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project" being implemented by the Ministry of Finance."

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"IT/Data Systems Technician" for the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute.**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Expression of Interest and Terms of Reference (TOR) at http://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities / or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Sr. Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: Individual Consultancy – "Information Technology (IT)/Data Systems Technician" – Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project– [Applicant's Name].

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Four Vision Company Ltd.** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Caribbean Pier"** located at # 8 Fort Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Four Vision Company Ltd.** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"D'Bourbon Barrel"** located at # 8 Fort Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Four Vision Company Ltd.** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Lizard Juice Bar"** located at # 8 Fort Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sherise Moralez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"In & Out Restaurant And Bar"** located at # 48 New Site, Sandhill Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Colin K. Gonzales** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Bambo Leo Inn Belize"** located at # 724 King Fisher Drive, Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Kimmasha D. McField** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"K3 Cool Spot"** located at # 823 C.A. Blvd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located at # 1183 P.G. Hwy., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Cristine C. Wade** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Back Yard Pool"** located in Carmelita Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Elisa Chi** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"La Nueva Nostalgia"** located on Sapodilla St., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Elsa M. Esquivel** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Elsa Vegetable Shop"** located in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rachel Leonards** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Mayan Trading Restaurant"** located in Tower Hill Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Maria E. Worrel** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Fisherman"** located in Black Water Area, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Charles Price** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Charlie's Sports Bar & Grill"** located at # 6 Guanacaste Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Eumir N. Escalante** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Pura Vida Sports Bar & Grill"** located in Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rodina D. Spain** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Son D'licias"** located at # 27 Joyce Blair St., Benque Viejo Del Carmen, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Gilberto R. Guerra** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at **"Pikadilly Night Club & Lounge"** located at # 35 Churchill St., Benque Viejo Del Carmen, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Phoenix Realty Services** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Jada Jungle Resort Ltd."** located in Teakettle Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

VACANCY NOTICES

Vacancy exist for a Electrician Technician at J & Y Cement Block Factory in Belize City. Visit # 122 Mahogany Street Ext., Belize City, Belize for more information.

Vacancy exist for a Customer Electronics Repair Technician at Kim's Fonto Shop located at # 7386 Antelope Street Ext., Belize City. Visit location for more information.

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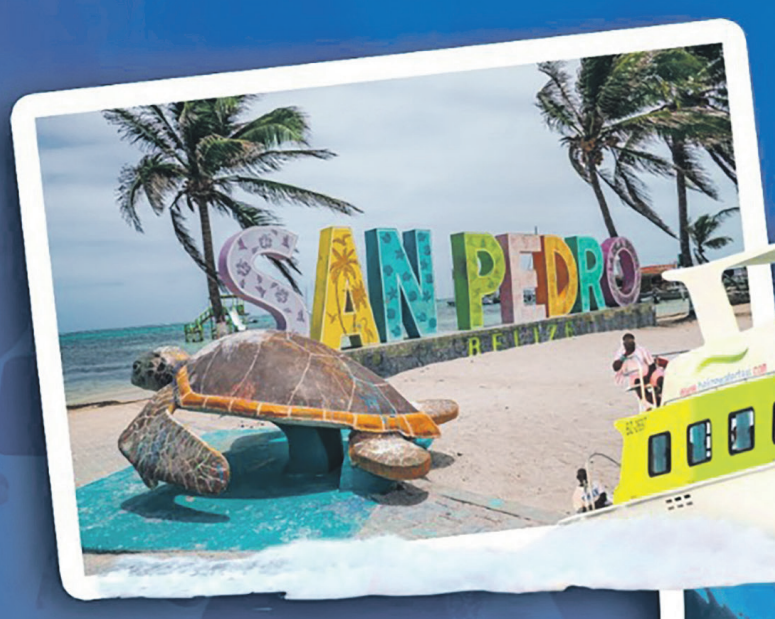

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Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth

World Health Organization
Western Pacific Region

unicef
for every child

Obesity
Myths vs Facts

Obesity can only be caused by overeating.	01	Obesity can also be influenced by genetics and harmonal imbalance.
Obesity does not affect children as much as adults.	02	Obesity is increasing in adults and children. In age 5-19, 33.6% have overwight or obesity and 8% of children under five.
Obesity is only a lifestyle issue and workout alone can help.	03	Regular physical activities and a balanced diet are key in preventing obesity.
Obesity is for rich people who can afford to eat a lot.	04	Lower-income families who have less access to healthy foods are more at risk.

TIPS TO PREVENT OBESITY:

- Limit your intake of fats, sugar and salt.
- Keep active. Make workout a regular part of your daily rountine.
- Manage your stress and rest well. Sleep and relaxation helps.
- Consume a balanced diet by choosing different types of foods from all food groups.
- Make sure that foods are stored propoer when buying, storing and cooking.

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

Government of Belize

Basic Needs Trust Fund Eleventh Project (BNTF11) - GA 79/BZE

Consultancy Services for the Design and Supervision of Infrastructure Works for the Proposed Water System Extension and Upgrade and Improved Sanitation and Hygiene Methodologies being Utilised in Otoxha Village, Toledo District, Belize.

Request for Expressions of Interest

EXTENSION OF DEADLINE

The **Government of Belize (GOBZ)** has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of financing the Basic needs Trust Fund Eleventh (BNTF 11) Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of GOBZ and upon approval by CDB and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOBZ shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF), the Executing Agency (EA), now wishes to procure the consultancy services for the **Consultancy Services for the Design and Supervision of Infrastructure Works for the Proposed Water System Extension and Upgrade and Improved Sanitation and Hygiene Methodologies being Utilized in Otoxha Village, Toledo District, Belize.**

The objective of the consultancies is to provide consulting engineering services that encompass the engineering design and construction supervision services for the Consultancy Services for the Design and Supervision of Infrastructure Works for the Proposed Water System Extension and Upgrade and Improved Sanitation and Hygiene Methodologies being Utilized in Otoxha Village.

Further details and the Draft Terms of Reference can be made available upon request by contacting **Address 1** below. The duration of the assignment is expected to be for a period of approximately thirty-six (36) non-consecutive months.

The BSIF now invites interested eligible consulting firms to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the provision of these consultancy services. Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

(a) in the case of the body corporate, it is legally incorporated or otherwise organized in an eligible country, has its principal place of business in an eligible country and is more than 50% beneficially owned by a citizen(s) and/or bona fide resident(s) of an eligible country(ies) or by a body(ies) corporate meeting these requirements;

(b) in the case of unincorporated firms, the persons are citizens or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and

(c) in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or bona fide resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. Consultants are advised to review the detailed eligibility criteria detailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website (caribank.org).

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to consulting firms' technical competence, qualifications and experience in relation to providing detailed design and supervision services on education infrastructure projects, as well as local and regional experience, financial capability (liquidity ratio) and existing commitments. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

Interested consultant teams are required to submit their Expression of Interest using the "EOI Consulting firms template" which can be made available upon request by contacting **Address 1** below.

All information must be submitted in **English**. Further information may be obtained from the address 1 below between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday (Belize Time), except on Public Holidays.

The Expression of Interest must be received electronically at the address 1 (BSIF) and address 2 (CDB) below no later than **2:00 p.m. (Belize time)** on **February 20, 2026.** The subject line of the email containing each submission shall be clearly marked **"BNTF11 - Expressions of Interest – Consultancy Services for the Design and Supervision of Infrastructure Works for the Proposed Water System Extension and Upgrade and Improved Sanitation and Hygiene Methodologies being Utilised in Otoxha Village, Toledo District, Belize.**

Following the assessment of submissions, a short-list of not less than three (3) and not more than six (6) applicants will be provided with full terms of reference and invited to submit technical and financial proposals to undertake the assignment. GOBZ reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not short-listing any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

Addresses:

1. **Senior Procurement Officer**

   Belize Social Investment Fund
   3rd Floor
   #4253 Hummingbird Highway
   Belmopan
   BELIZE
   Tel. (501) 822-0239; Fax. (501) 822-0279
   Email: submissions@sifbelize.org
   cc: stephanie.rodriguez@sifbelize.org

2. **Procurement Officer**

   Caribbean Development Bank
   P.O. Box 408
   Wildey
   St. Michael
   BARBADOS, W.I.
   Tel. (246) 431-1600; Fax. (246) 426-7269
   Email: procurement@caribank.org
   cc: omar.bispat@caribank.or